CHAPTER 1: BIRTH OF RIKI

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
WWW.JAPANINFO.DK

EDITING BY:
GINGA SCANLATION TEAM

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GINGA DENSETSU RIKI
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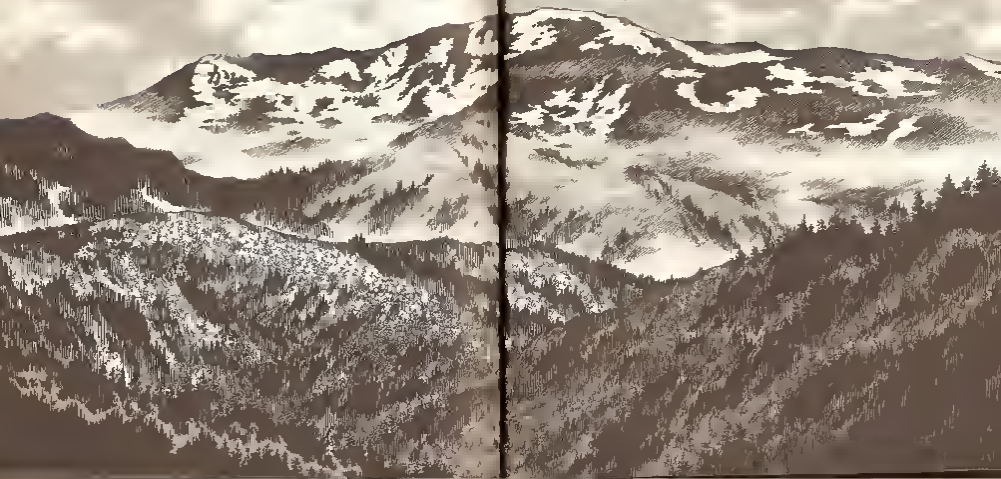
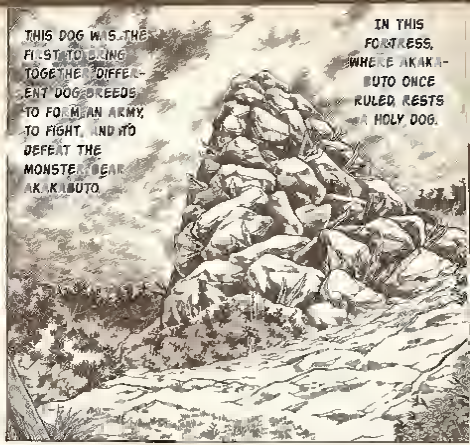
IN THE PAST THIS PLACE WAS THE SCENE OF MANY BLOODY BATTLES. FOR THE BEAR DOGS IN THIS AREA THE MOUNTAINS OF OU REPRESENT A BATTLEFIELD AS WELL AS A GRAVEYARD.

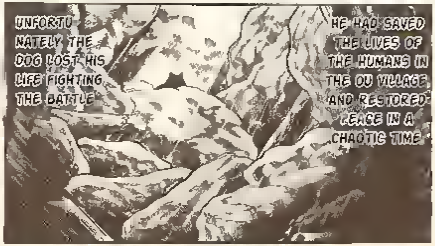
THE MOUNTAIN KURIKUMA IS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE OF OU, A CHAIN OF MOUNTAINS THAT STRETCHES ALONG THE HORIZON FROM KURIKUMA THE FUTAGO PASS CUTS THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN PEAKS IN THE NORTHEASTERN AREA.

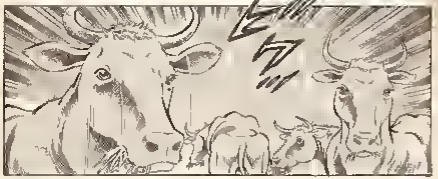


THIS HOLY AND BRAVE DOG WAS CALLED KIKI!

HE IS THE GRAND-FATHER OF WEED AND THE FATHER OF THE GREAT LEADER OF OU - GIN.

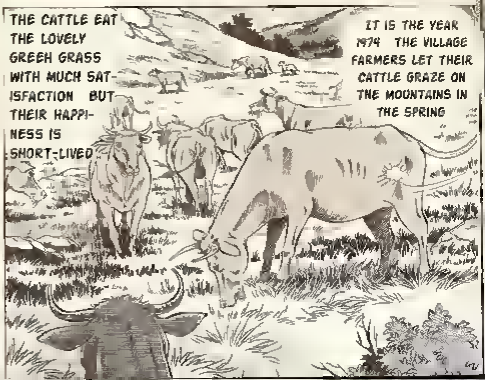

THIS DOG WAS THE FIRST TO BRING TOGETHER DIFFERENT DOG BREEDS TO FORM AN ARMY, TO FIGHT, AND TO DEFEAT THE MONSTER BEAR AKAKABUTO.
IN THIS FORTRESS, WHERE AKAKABUTO ONCE RULED, RESTS A HOLY DOG.


UNFORTUNATELY THE DOG LOST HIS LIFE FIGHTING THE BATTLE.
HE HAD SAVED THE LIVES OF THE HUMANS IN THE OU VILLAGE, AND RESTORED PEACE IN A CHAOTIC TIME.



GRRR
GRRR

THIS IS THE YET UNTOLD STORY OF RIKI'S PAST....


THE CATTLE EAT THE LOVELY GREEN GRASS WITH MUCH SATISFACTION BUT THEIR HAPPINESS IS SHORT-LIVED
IT IS THE YEAR 1974 THE VILLAGE FARMERS LET THEIR CATTLE GRAZE ON THE MOUNTAINS IN THE SPRING

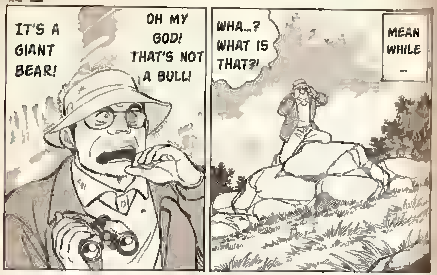
ROAR

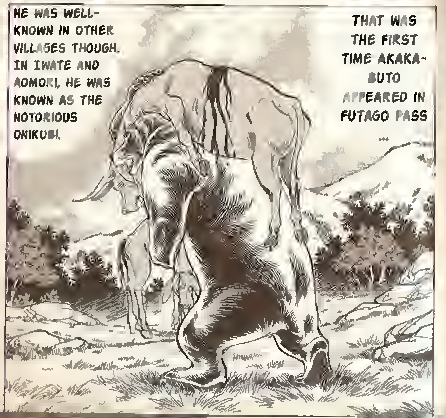
!

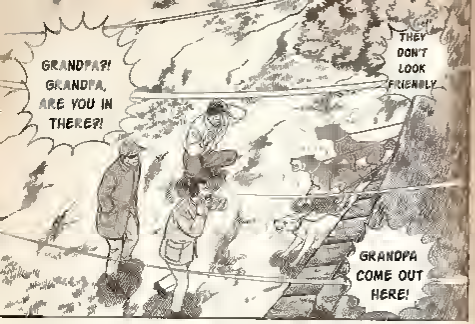
GET OUT OF HERE! RUN AWAY QUICKLY!
RUN! RUN, MY SON!
GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

BUT THE BEAR WASN'T AFTER THE ADULT CATTLE...
THE BEAR KILLED THE MOTHER COW WITH ONE BLOW.
THAT THE MEAT OF A CALF WAS MORE TENDER AND JUICY.
HE ALREADY KNEW.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME - GO!
PLEASE, MY SON! RUN AWAY!
ROAR


IT'S A GIANT BEAR!
OH MY GOD! THAT'S NOT A BULL!
WHA...? WHAT IS THAT?
MEAN WHILE ...


HE WAS WELL-KNOWN IN OTHER VILLAGES THOUGH. IN IWATE AND AOMORI, HE WAS KNOWN AS THE NOTORIOUS ONIKUMA.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME AKAKABUTO APPEARED IN FUTAGO PASS ...


GRANDPA?! GRANDPA, ARE YOU IN THERE?!
THEY DON'T LOOK FRIENDLY
GRANDPA COME OUT HERE!

SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED!
IF YOU ARE IN THERE PLEASE COME OUT AND REMOVE THESE DOGS!

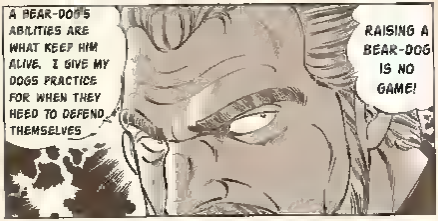
WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES AND KILL THE BEAST, BUT IT WOULD BE GREAT TO HAVE A GUIDE.
LISTEN, YOU ONLY NEED TO SHOW US THE WAY.

I DON'T NEED A DOG THAT BARKS CONSTANTLY!
SHUT UP! STOP THAT BARKING!
WHINE!

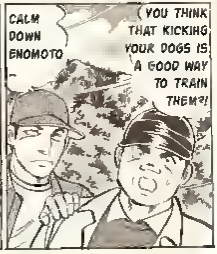
I DON'T MAKE MY OWN LIQUOR ANYMORE
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM A POOR OLD MAN LIKE ME?
YOU MISUNDERSTAND US, OLD MAN! WE ARE NOT FROM THE GOVERNMENT
TAKEDA GOHEI
68 YEARS OLD

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR...?
A BEAR KILLING CATTLE ...?
WE ARE HERE TO ASK YOU TO SHOW US THE WAY TO THE MOUNTAIN!
A COW AND A CALF HAVE BEEN KILLED BY A BEAR IN FUTAGO PASS...!

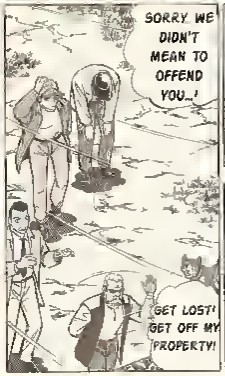
SHUT UP!
WHAT ARE YOU ANGRY ABOUT? THIS IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE...


A BEAR-DOG'S ABILITIES ARE WHAT KEEP HIM ALIVE. I GIVE MY DOGS PRACTICE FOR WHEN THEY NEED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES...
RAISING A BEAR-DOG IS NO GAME!

CANNOT EVADE THE HIT OF A BEAR'S PAW!
A DOG THAT CANNOT EVADE AN OLD MAN'S KICK...


CALM DOWN ENOMOTO-
YOU THINK THAT KICKING YOUR DOGS IS A GOOD WAY TO TRAIN THEM?!

OBEY ME AND BE QUIET! UNDERSTOOD? STUPID MUTT...
WHINE
WHINE


SORRY WE DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU...!
GET LOST! GET OFF MY PROPERTY!

DOGS SHOULD BE TREATED AS FRIENDS!
ANIMAL CRUELTY! KICKING HIS DOG LIKE THAT...

PSHH. LIKE YOU KIDS KNOW HOW TO TRAIN A DOG

HE IS ONLY FOUR YEARS OLD, BUT A QUICK LEARNER. WATCH CLOSELY NOW...
THIS IS SHIRO. I TRAINED HIM MYSELF.

WOULD BE NO GOOD AS A HUNTING DOG!
A DOG THAT STICKS ITS TAIL BETWEEN ITS LEGS IN BATTLE..

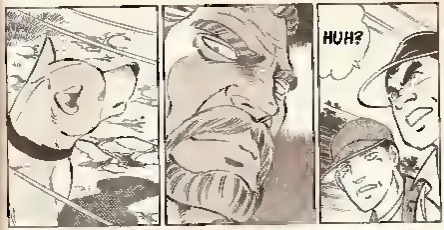
AT THAT TIME, IT IS THE DOG'S REFLEXES THAT WILL SAVE BOTH LIVES... AM I RIGHT?
IF HIS OWNER FALLS, THE DOG WILL PROTECT HIS OWNER WITH HIS LIFE!

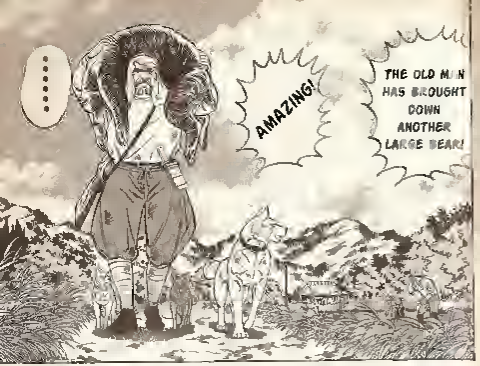
SHIRO! COME HERE!
OKAY THEN..

WHAT THE..?!

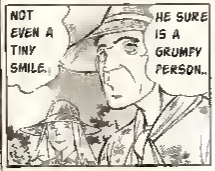
AMAZING!

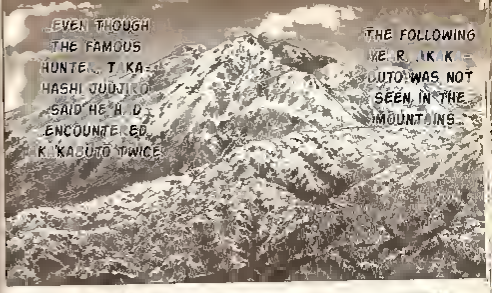
GROWL!
THIS IS SHIRO, THE LEGENDARY BEAR-DOG WHO WOULD COME TO FATHER RIKI IN A YEAR'S TIME.

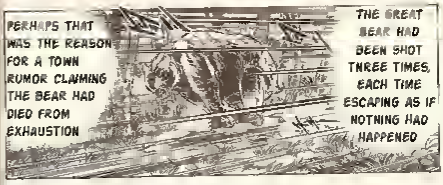

HUH?


AMAZING!
THE OLD MAN HAS BROUGHT DOWN ANOTHER LARGE BEAR!

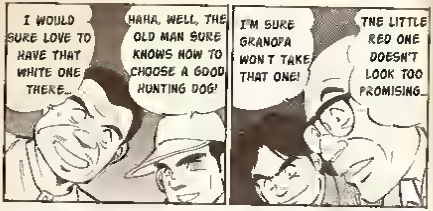
THAT REMINDS ME... I HEARD THAT BIZEN'S DOG GAVE BIRTH TO SHIRO'S PUPPIES!
I'VE HEARD THAT HE IS NOT ACTUALLY THE GOOD HUNTER SHIRO IS!
THOSE MUST BE SOME AMAZING PUPPIES...!

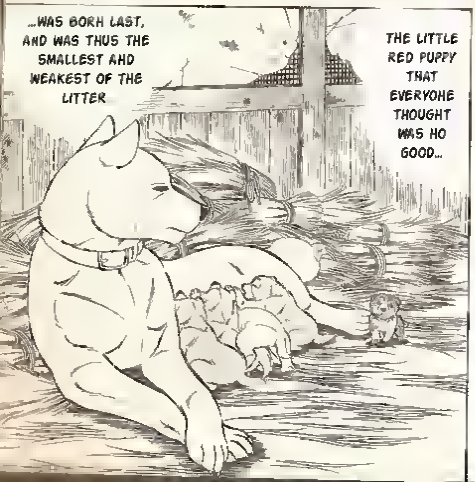

NOT EVEN A TINY SMILE.
HE SURE IS A GRUMPY PERSON..

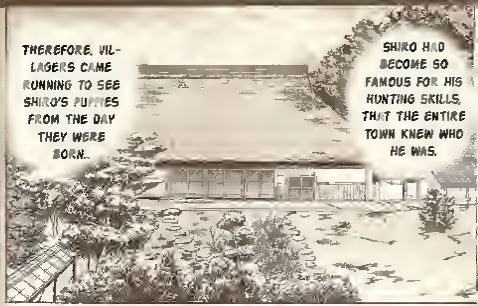

EVEN THOUGH THE FAMOUS HUNTER, T. KASHI JUIJITSU, SAID HE'D ENCOUNTERED K. KABUTO TWICE
THE FOLLOWING YEAR, K. KABUTO WAS NOT SEEN IN THE MOUNTAINS...


PERHAPS THAT WAS THE REASON FOR A TOWN RUMOR CLAIMING THE BEAR HAD DIED FROM EXHAUSTION
THE GREAT BEAR HAD BEEN SHOT THREE TIMES, EACH TIME ESCAPING AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED

LOOK, IT'S TAKEDA GOHEI!
HUH?!

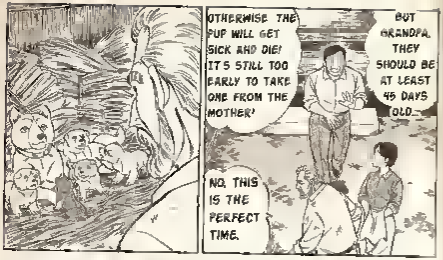

I WOULD SURE LOVE TO HAVE THAT WHITE ONE THERE..
HAHA, WELL, THE OLD MAN SURE KNOWS HOW TO CHOOSE A GOOD HUNTING DOG!
I'M SURE GRANDPA WON'T TAKE THAT ONE!
THE LITTLE RED ONE DOESN'T LOOK TOO PROMISING..


...WAS BORN LAST, AND WAS THUS THE SMALLEST AND WEAKEST OF THE LITTER
THE LITTLE RED PUPPY THAT EVERYONE THOUGHT WAS NO GOOD...


THEREFORE, VILLAGERS CAME RUNNING TO SEE SHIRO'S PUPPIES FROM THE DAY THEY WERE BORN..
SHIRO HAD BECOME SO FAMOUS FOR HIS HUNTING SKILLS, THAT THE ENTIRE TOWN KNEW WHO HE WAS.

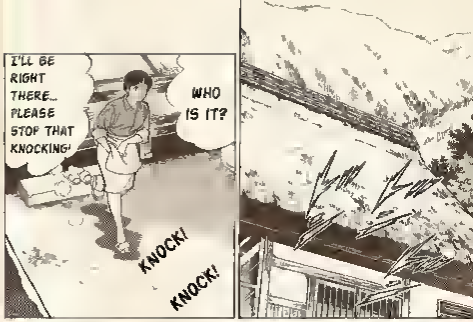
I'M SURE GRANDPA HAS HIS EYE ON THAT ONE!
LOOK THE WHITE ONE LOOKS JUST LIKE SHIRO!

AMONG THEM WAS A SMALL PUP WITH RED FUR.
YAMABUKI, SHIRO'S MATE, HAD GIVEN BIRTH TO FIVE PUPPIES.


OTHERWISE THE PUP WILL GET SICK AND DIE! IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO TAKE ONE FROM THE MOTHER!
BUT GRANDPA, THEY SHOULD BE AT LEAST 45 DAYS OLD...
NO, THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME.

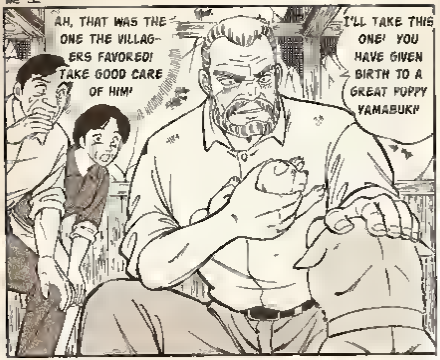
IF WE TRY TO STOP HIM HE MIGHT GET ANGRY OR VIOLENT
DON'T BOTHER... HE HAS BEEN DRINKING AGAIN
DON'T DO THIS!

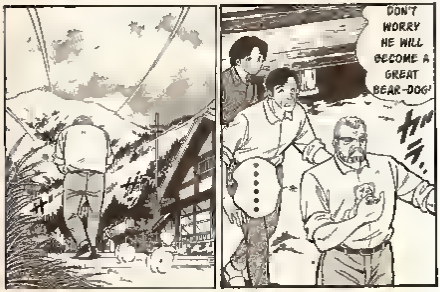
THEY ALL LOOKED GOOD, EXCEPT FOR THE RED PUP WHO COULDN'T EVEN GET TO SUCKLE.
TAKEDA GOHEI DIDN'T CARE ABOUT CUTENESS HE WANTED A FUTURE HUNTING DOG

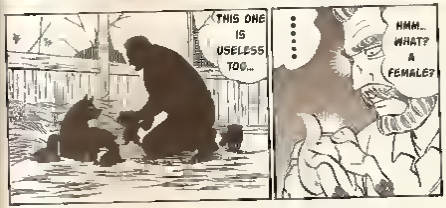

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE... PLEASE STOP THAT KNOCKING!
WHO IS IT?
KNOCK! KNOCK!

TAKEDA GOHEI ?!

IT IS NOW ONE MONTH SINCE THEY WERE BORN, RIGHT?
I HAVE COME TO COLLECT A PUPPY!


AH, THAT WAS THE ONE THE VILLAGERS FAVORED! TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM!
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE! YOU HAVE GIVEN BIRTH TO A GREAT PUPPY YAMABUKI!


DON'T WORRY HE WILL BECOME A GREAT BEAR-DOG!
ガラ…


THIS ONE IS USELESS TOO...
HMM.. WHAT? A FEMALE?

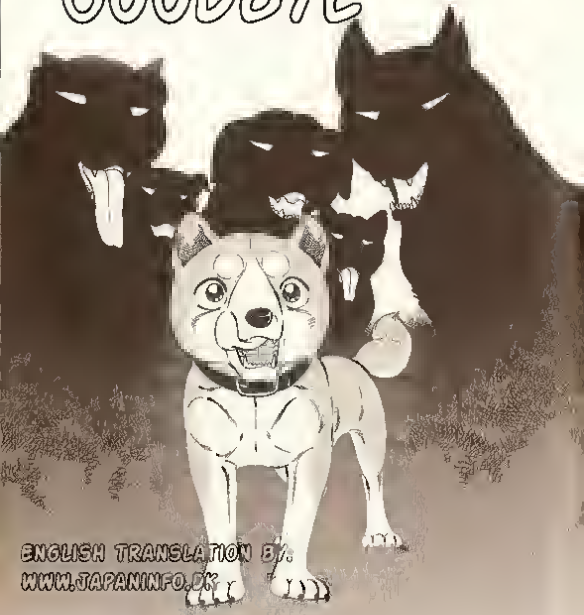
BUT TAKEDA GOHEI DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT THE LITTLE RED
ONE BY ONE THE PUPS WERE JUDGED

NONE OF THE VILLAGERS EVER GUESSED THAT THIS RUNT WOULD BE THE ONE TO SOMEDAY DEFEAT THE MONSTER-BEAR AKAKA-BUTO, AND BECOME KNOWN AS THE GREATEST HUNTING DOG IN THE COUNTRY - THE LEGEND-ARY BEAR-DOG RIKI!

WHETHER IT WAS THE WORK OF LUCK OR MISFOR-TUNE, TAKEDA GOHEI DIDN'T TAKE NOTICE OF THE SMALL RED RUNT.

CHAPTER 2:

GOODBYE



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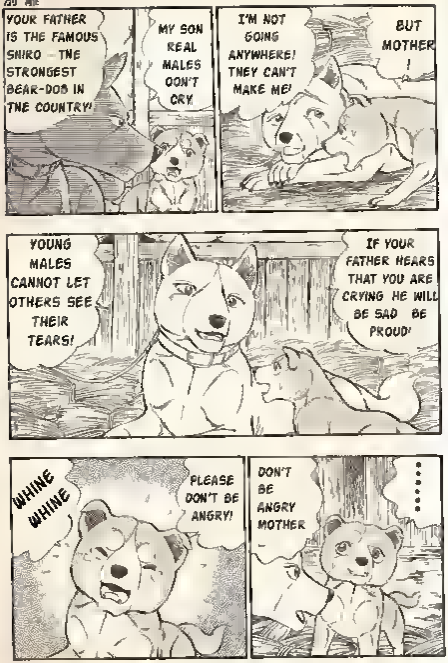
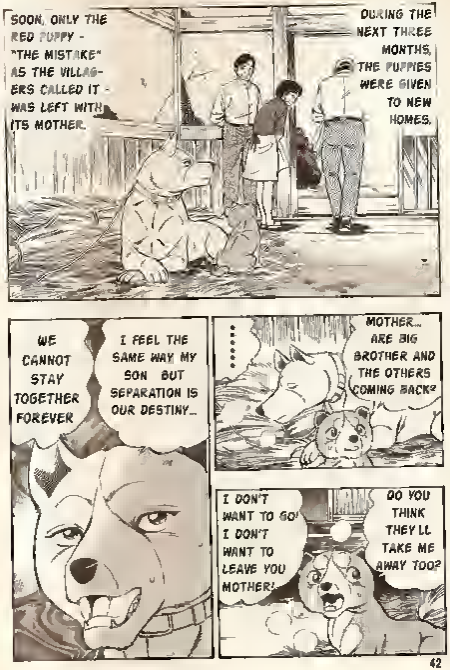
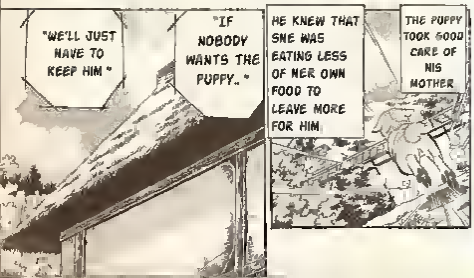
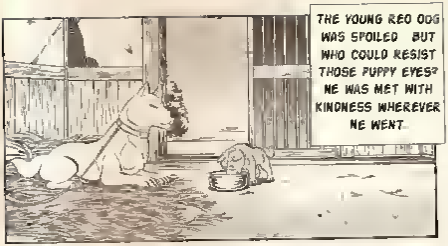

YOUR FATHER IS THE FAMOUS SNIKO - THE STRONGEST BEAR-DOG IN THE COUNTRY!
MY SON REAL MALES DON'T CRY
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE! THEY CAN'T MAKE ME!
BUT MOTHER !
YOUNG MALES CANNOT LET OTHERS SEE THEIR TEARS!
IF YOUR FATHER HEARS THAT YOU ARE CRYING HE WILL BE SAD BE PROUD!
WHINE WHINE
PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY!
DON'T BE ANGRY MOTHER

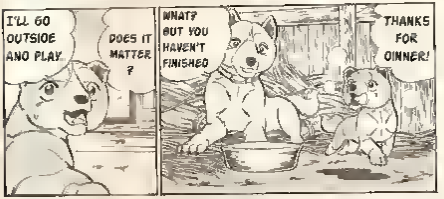

SOON, ONLY THE RED PUPPY - "THE MISTAKE" AS THE VILLAGERS CALLED IT - WAS LEFT WITH ITS MOTHER.
DURING THE NEXT THREE MONTHS, THE PUPPIES WERE GIVEN TO NEW HOMES.
WE CANNOT STAY TOGETHER FOREVER
I FEEL THE SAME WAY MY SON BUT SEPARATION IS OUR DESTINY...
MOTHER... ARE BIG BROTHER AND THE OTHERS COMING BACK?
I DON'T WANT TO GO! I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YOU MOTHER!
DO YOU THINK THEY'LL TAKE ME AWAY TOO?

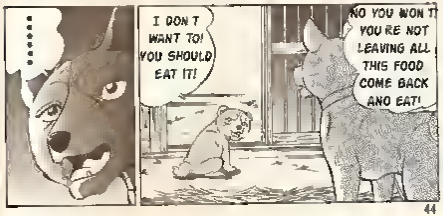
YOUNG MALES MUST EAT A LOT TO GROW STRONG!
WHA... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING ?
YOU NEED TO EAT MORE THAN I DO. IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL GET SICK!
YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT LATELY, MOTHER.

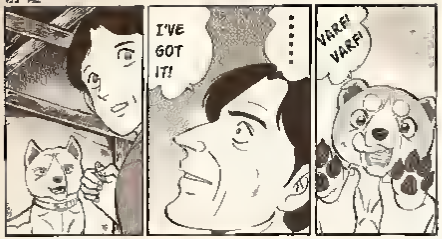
I'M GOING OUTSIDE TO PLAY!
COME BACK HERE MY SON!

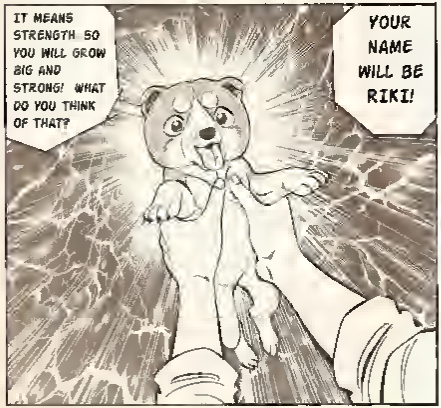

"WE'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP HIM."
"IF NOBODY WANTS THE PUPPY..."
HE KNEW THAT SHE WAS EATING LESS OF HER OWN FOOD TO LEAVE MORE FOR HIM.
THE PUPPY TOOK GOOD CARE OF HIS MOTHER.


THE YOUNG REO DOG WAS SPOILED BUT WHO COULD RESIST THOSE PUPPY EYES? HE WAS MET WITH KINDNESS WHEREVER HE WENT.


I'LL GO OUTSIDE AND PLAY.
DOES IT MATTER ?
WHAT? BUT YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED
THANKS FOR DINNER!

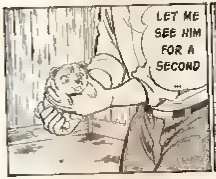

.....
I DON'T WANT TO! YOU SHOULD EAT IT!
NO YOU WON'T! YOU'RE NOT LEAVING ALL THIS FOOD COME BACK AND EAT!


I'VE GOT IT!
.....
VARF! VARF!

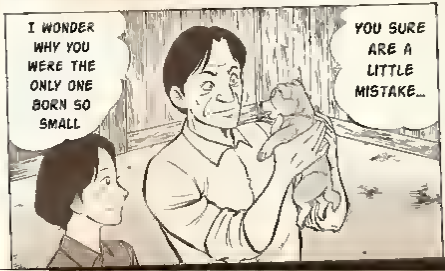

IT MEANS STRENGTH SO YOU WILL GROW BIG AND STRONG! WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?
YOUR NAME WILL BE RIKI!

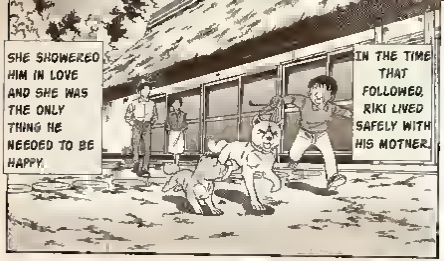
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MOTHER? I CAN STAY!

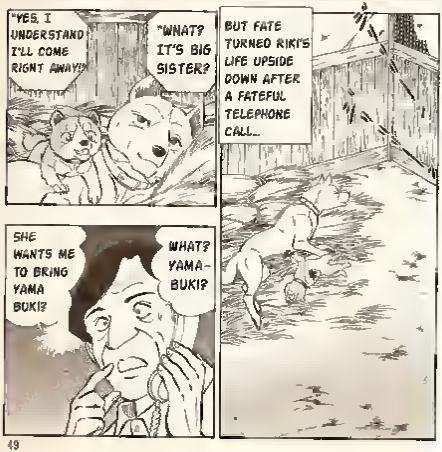
WELL, WE HAVE ROOM FOR TWO DOGS.
YOU'RE NOT TOO GOOD AS A GUARD DOG, NUH?


LET ME SEE HIM FOR A SECOND ...

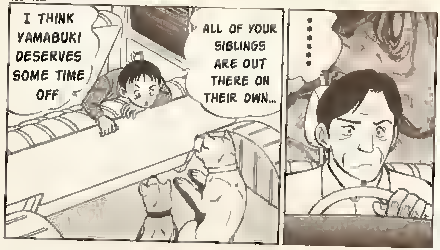
"WELL, LET'S GIVE HIM A NAME THEN"

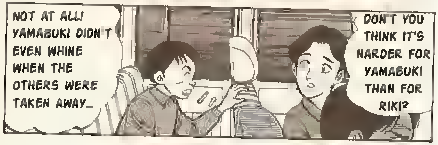

I WONDER WHY YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE BORN SO SMALL
YOU SURE ARE A LITTLE MISTAKE...

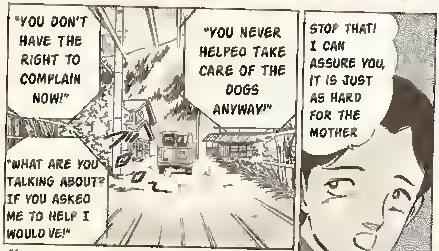

SHE SHOWERED HIM IN LOVE AND SHE WAS THE ONLY THING HE NEEDED TO BE HAPPY.
IN THE TIME THAT FOLLOWED, RIKI LIVED SAFELY WITH HIS MOTHER.

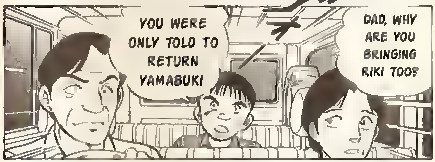

"YES, I UNDERSTAND I'LL COME RIGHT AWAY!"
"WHAT? IT'S BIG SISTER?
BUT FATE TURNED RIKI'S LIFE UPSIDE DOWN AFTER A FATEFUL TELEPHONE CALL...
SHE WANTS ME TO BRING YAMA BUKI?
WHAT? YAMA-BUKI?

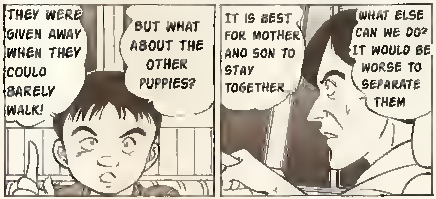
BUT WHO COULD KNOW THAT THIS RIKI WOULD SOMEDAY BE KNOWN AS THE GREAT LEADER OF OU?
AND SO, THE "LITTLE MISTAKE" GOT THE BIG NAME RIKI.

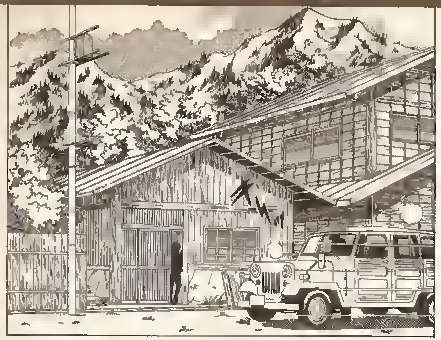

I THINK YAMABUKI DESERVES SOME TIME OFF
ALL OF YOUR SIBLINGS ARE OUT THERE ON THEIR OWN...

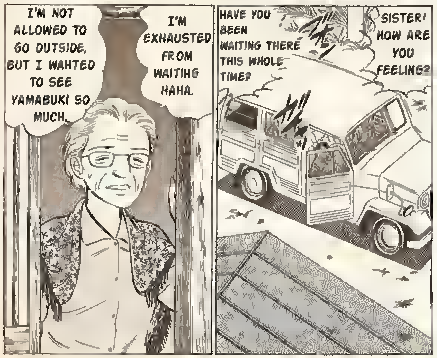

NOT AT ALL! YAMABUKI DIDN'T EVEN WHINE WHEN THE OTHERS WERE TAKEN AWAY...
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S HARDER FOR YAMABUKI THAN FOR RIKI?


"YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COMPLAIN NOW!"
"YOU NEVER HELPED TAKE CARE OF THE DOGS ANYWAY!"
"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IF YOU ASKED ME TO HELP I WOULD'VE!"
STOP THAT! I CAN ASSURE YOU, IT IS JUST AS HARD FOR THE MOTHER

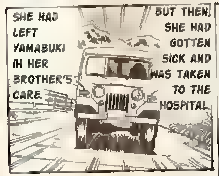

YOU WERE ONLY TOLD TO RETURN YAMABUKI
DAD, WHY ARE YOU BRINGING RIKI TOO?

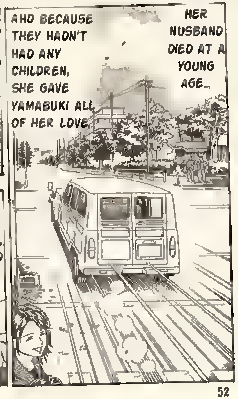

THEY WERE GIVEN AWAY WHEN THEY COULD BARELY WALK!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER PUPPIES?
IT IS BEST FOR MOTHER AND SON TO STAY TOGETHER
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO? IT WOULD BE WORSE TO SEPARATE THEM

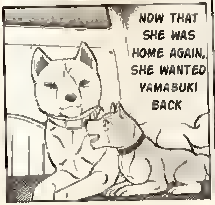


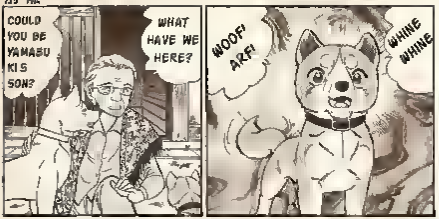

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO GO OUTSIDE, BUT I WANTED TO SEE YAMABUKI SO MUCH.
I'M EXHAUSTED FROM WAITING HAHA.
HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING THERE THIS WHOLE TIME?
SISTER! HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

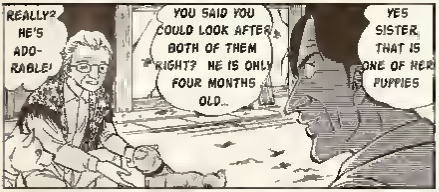
SHE HAD BELONGED TO YUJIRO BLIZEN'S BIG SISTER WHO HAD BOUGHT HER AFTER GETTING MARRIED IN MIYAGI.
ORIGINALLY, YAMABUKI CAME FROM THE MIYAGI MUNICIPALITY.

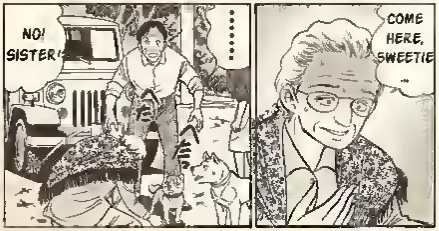

SHE HAD LEFT YAMABUKI IN HER BROTHER'S CARE.
BUT THEN, SHE HAD GOTTEN SICK AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL.

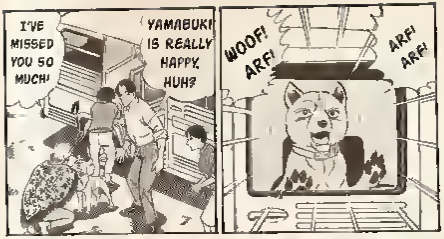

AND BECAUSE THEY HADN'T HAD ANY CHILDREN, SHE GAVE YAMABUKI ALL OF HER LOVE.
HER HUSBAND DIED AT A YOUNG AGE...

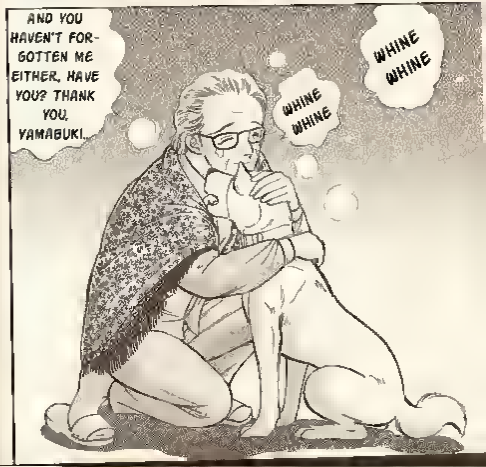

NOW THAT SHE WAS HOME AGAIN, SHE WANTED YAMABUKI BACK

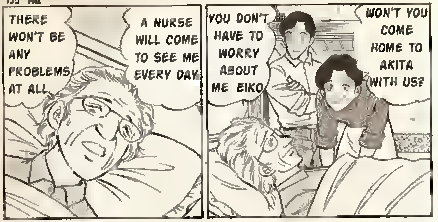

COULD YOU BE YAMABUKI'S SON?
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
WOOF! ARF!
WHINE WHINE


REALLY? HE'S ADORABLE!
YOU SAID YOU COULD LOOK AFTER BOTH OF THEM RIGHT? HE IS ONLY FOUR MONTHS OLD...
YES SISTER. THAT IS ONE OF HER PUPPIES

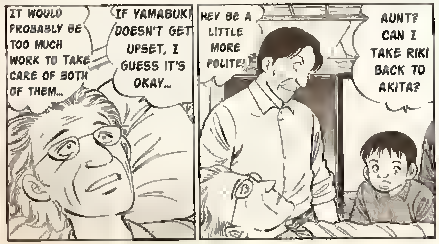

NO! SISTER!
COME HERE, SWEETIE

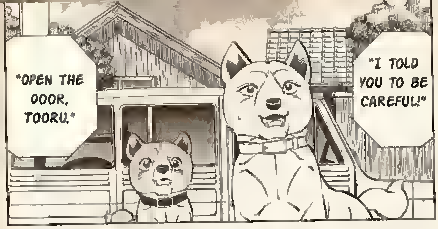

I'VE MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
YAMABUKI IS REALLY HAPPY, HUH?
WOOF! ARF!
ARF! ARF!

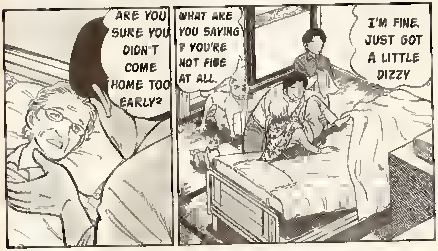

AND YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME EITHER, HAVE YOU? THANK YOU, YAMABUKI.
WHINE WHINE
WHINE WHINE


THERE WON'T BE ANY PROBLEMS AT ALL.
A NURSE WILL COME TO SEE ME EVERY DAY.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME EIKO.
WON'T YOU COME HOME TO AKITA WITH US?

.....
"I FEEL SO SAFE, NOW THAT YAMABUKI IS HERE."


IT WOULD PROBABLY BE TOO MUCH WORK TO TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF THEM...
IF YAMABUKI DOESN'T GET UPSET, I GUESS IT'S OKAY...
HEY BE A LITTLE MORE POLITE!
AUNT? CAN I TAKE RIKI BACK TO AKITA?

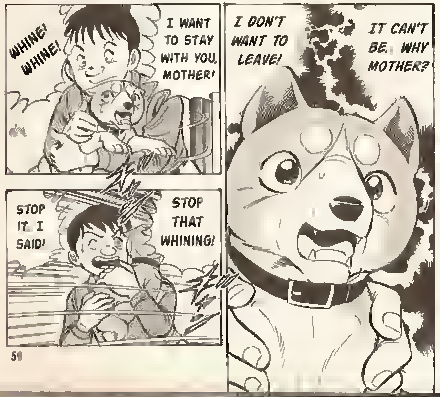

"OPEN THE DOOR, TOORU."
"I TOLD YOU TO BE CAREFUL!"

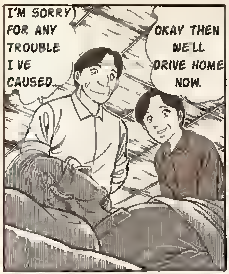

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T COME HOME TOO EARLY?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? YOU'RE NOT FINE AT ALL.
I'M FINE. JUST GOT A LITTLE DIZZY

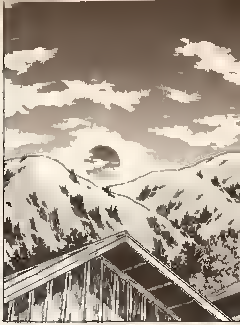
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPENS AGAIN?
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE IN A HOSPITAL
YOU'RE SAYING THAT TOO...?

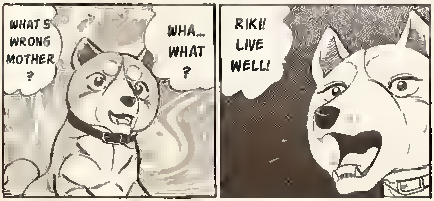
JUST LIKE THE REST OF YOUR SIBLINGS
FROM THIS DAY OH YOU'LL BE OH YOUR OWN...

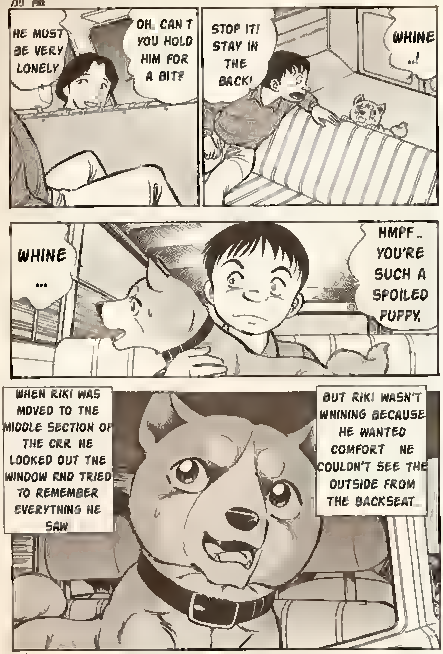

WHINE! WHINE!
I WANT TO STAY WITH YOU, MOTHER!
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE!
IT CAN'T BE. WHY MOTHER?
STOP IT. I SAID!
STOP THAT WHINING!

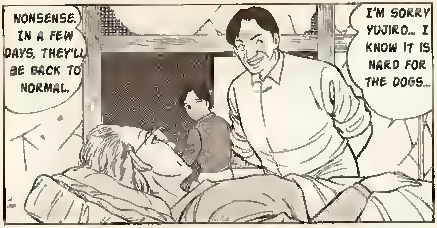

I'M SORRY FOR ANY TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.
OKAY THEN WE'LL DRIVE HOME NOW.

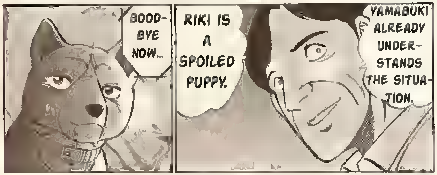


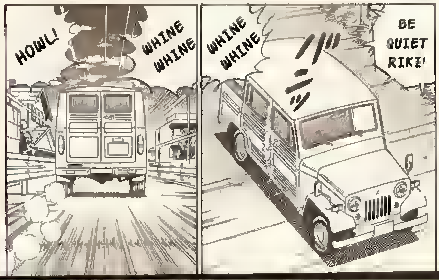
OKAY, DAD.
TOORU, TAKE RIKI TO THE CAR.


WHAT'S WRONG MOTHER?
WHA... WHAT?
RIKI! LIVE WELL!

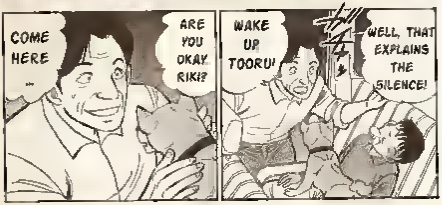

HE MUST BE VERY LONELY.
OH, CAN'T YOU HOLD HIM FOR A BIT?
STOP IT! STAY IN THE BACK!
WHINE ..!
WHINE ...
HMPF.. YOU'RE SUCH A SPOILED PUPPY.
WHEN RIKI WAS MOVED TO THE MIDDLE SECTION OF THE CAR HE LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AND TRIED TO REMEMBER EVERYTHING HE SAW.
BUT RIKI WASN'T WHINING BECAUSE HE WANTED COMFORT. HE COULDN'T SEE THE OUTSIDE FROM THE BACKSEAT.

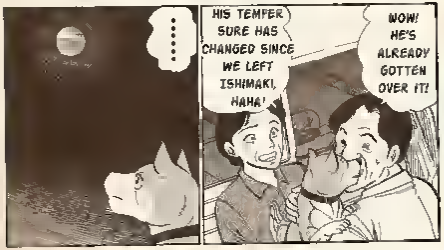

NONSENSE. IN A FEW DAYS, THEY'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL.
I'M SORRY YUJIRO... I KNOW IT IS HARD FOR THE DOGS...


GOOD-BYE NOW...
RIKI IS A SPOILED PUPPY.
YAMABUKI ALREADY UNDER-STANDS THE SITUA-TION.

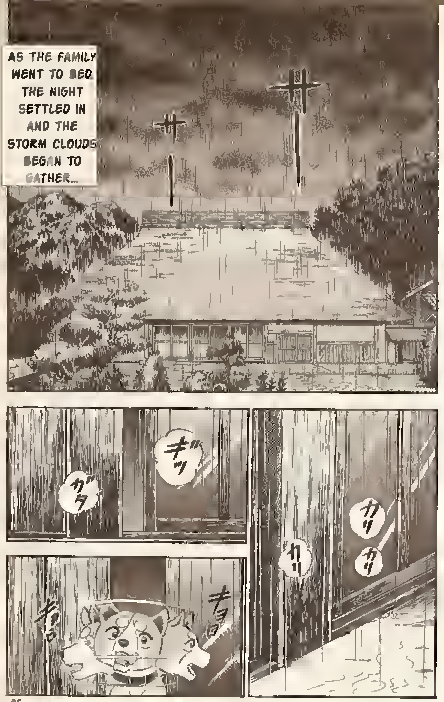

HOWL!
WHINE WHINE
WHINE WHINE
BE QUIET RIKI!

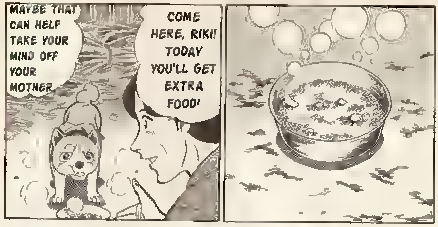
YEAH, ALMOST THREE HOURS FROM ISHIMAKI
AHH, FINALLY HOME..!


COME HERE ..
ARE YOU OKAY, RIKI?
WAKE UP, TOORU!
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS THE SILENCE!

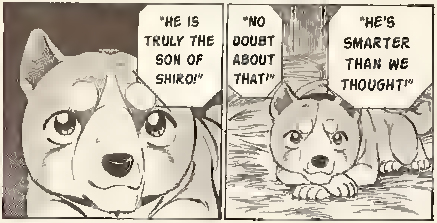

.....
HIS TEMPER SURE HAS CHANGED SINCE WE LEFT ISHIMAKI, HAHA!
WOW! HE'S ALREADY GOTTEN OVER IT!

RIKI'S DEVELOP-MENT AS A BEAR-DOG HAS ALREADY BEGUN..
THE CYCLE STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN ..

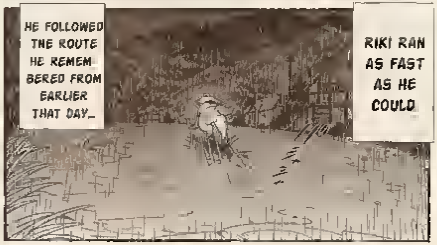

AS THE FAMILY WENT TO BED, THE NIGHT SETTLED IN AND THE STORM CLOUDS BEGAN TO GATHER...


MAYBE THAT CAN HELP TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR MOTHER.
COME HERE, RIKI! TODAY YOU'LL GET EXTRA FOOD!

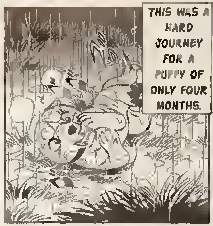
AND I THOUGHT HE WOULDN'T EAT FOR DAYS AFTER THE SHOCK OF LOSING HIS MOTHER! HAHA, I NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED!
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE TO WORRY. LOOK, HE HAS EATEN EVERYTHING!

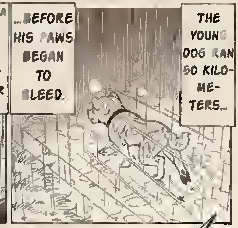

"HE IS TRULY THE SON OF SHIRO!"
"NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT!"
"HE'S SMARTER THAN WE THOUGHT!"

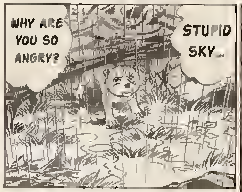
THE RAIN IN NORTHEASTERN JAPAN IS VERY COLD, SO THIS WAS A HUGE TEST FOR THE SMALL PUPPY...
OCTOBER 1975
THE YOUNG RIKI LEFT HIS HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE. HE WAS ON HIS OWN.

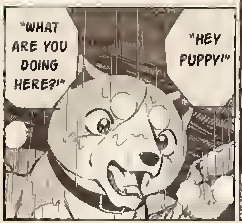

HE FOLLOWED THE ROUTE HE REMEMBERED FROM EARLIER THAT DAY...
RIKI RAN AS FAST AS HE COULD

GO
...


THIS WAS A HARD JOURNEY FOR A PUPPY OF ONLY FOUR MONTHS.

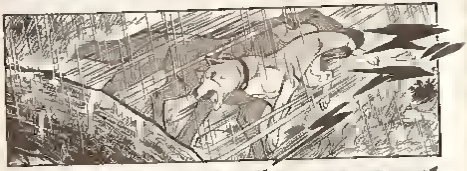

...BEFORE HIS PAWS BEGAN TO BLEED.
THE YOUNG DOG RAN 50 KILOMETERS...

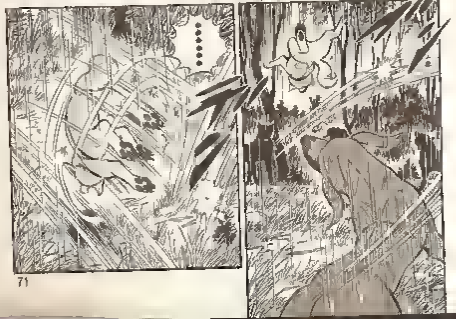

WHY ARE YOU SO ANGRY?
STUPID SKY...


"WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!"
"HEY PUPPY!"

ARGH!

WHINE!
YOU HEARD HIM, KID!

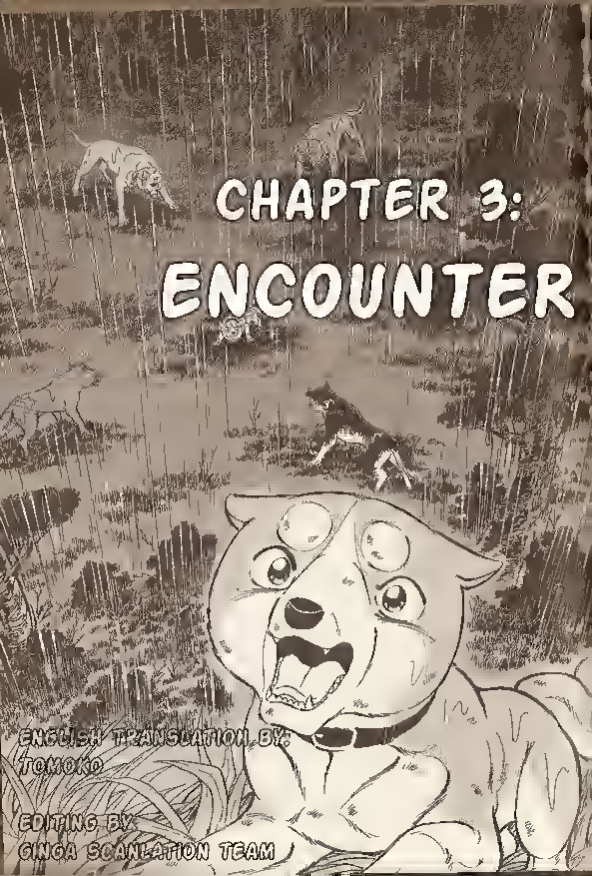



.....

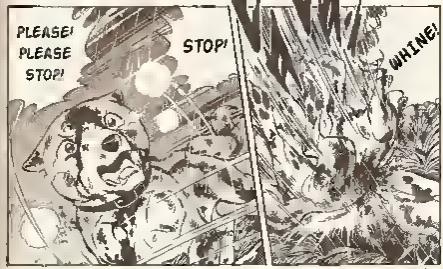
HE'S JUST A KID
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH HIM BROTHERS

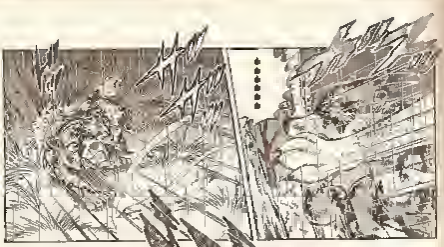
HE STINKS OF HUMANS! LET'S KILL HIM!
THROW HIM OUT! I WON'T ALLOW LAP DOGS TO HUNT IN MY TERRITORY ON MY MOUNTAIN!

THE ADULT DOGS FLASHED THEIR FANGS AT THE PUPPY. THEY SHOWED NO MERCY TOWARDS INTRUDERS. THIS WOULD BE THE PUPPY'S MOST DANGEROUS AND FRIGHTENING TRIAL
RIKI HAD NEVER FOUGHT ANYONE BEFORE. THIS WAS HIS FIRST TIME SEEING REAL ANGER AND HATRED.
◉別 離／完

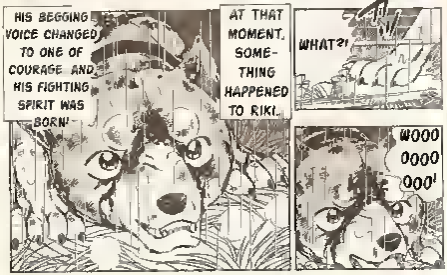

CHAPTER 3:
ENCOUNTER
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
TOMOKO
EDITING BY:
GINGA SCANLATION TEAM

THEY ATTACKED HIM AS IF TRYING TO GET REVENGE FOR THEIR OWN PATHETIC CIRCUMSTANCES.
WHINE
ARF!
THE DOGS WOULDN'T FORGIVE RIKI, NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE APOLOGIZED.
GROWL!
ARF! WOOF!

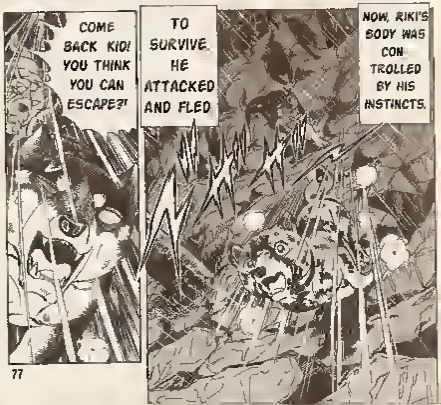

PLEASE! PLEASE STOP!
STOP!
WHINE!

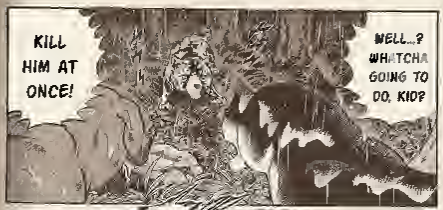


GROWL! ARF!
YOU HAVE SURVIVED PURELY BY FLATTERING HUMANS!


HIS BEGGING VOICE CHANGED TO ONE OF COURAGE AND HIS FIGHTING SPIRIT WAS BORN!
AT THAT MOMENT, SOMETHING HAPPENED TO RIKI.
WHAT?!
WOOO OOOO OOO!

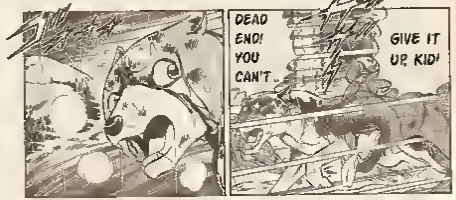
OUCH!
SMASH!


COME BACK KID! YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE?!
TO SURVIVE, HE ATTACKED AND FLED
NOW, RIKI'S BODY WAS CONTROLLED BY HIS INSTINCTS.

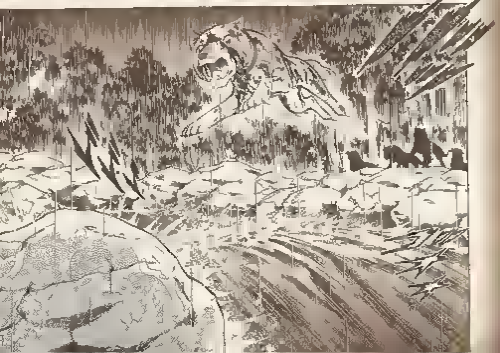

KILL HIM AT ONCE!
WELL...? WHATCHA GOING TO DO, KID?

THESE INSTINCTS AWOKE WITHIN HIM WHEN HE WAS FORCED INTO A CORNER
THE BLOOD OF A BEAR-DOG FLOWS IN RIKI'S VEINS, GIVING HIM POWERFUL INSTINCTS...

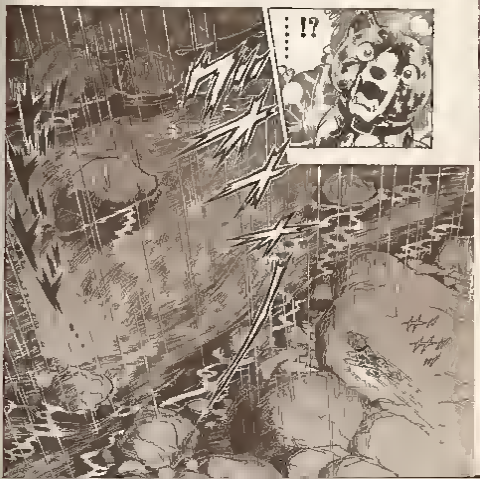
!!
SNAP!


DEAD END! YOU CAN'T..
GIVE IT UP, KID!

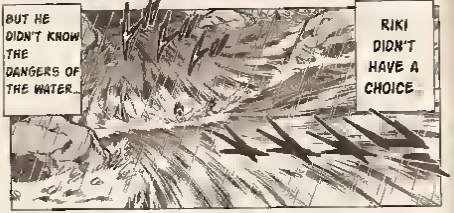
IT CAN'T BE!
HUH..?!

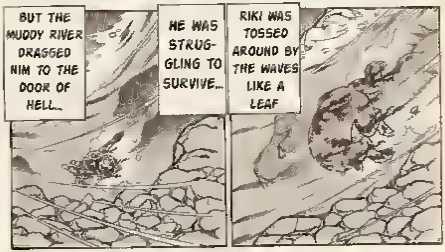


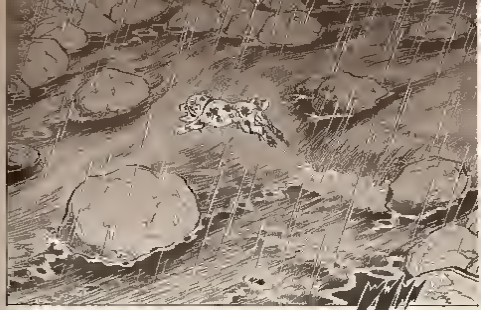
STOP, YOU CHILD!

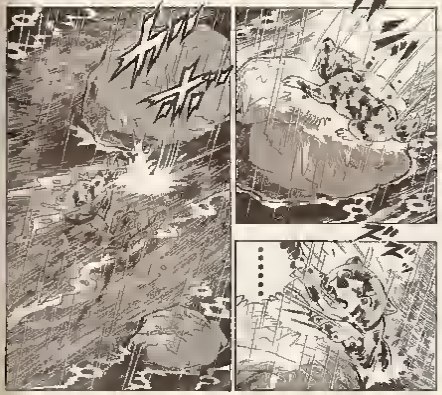

!?

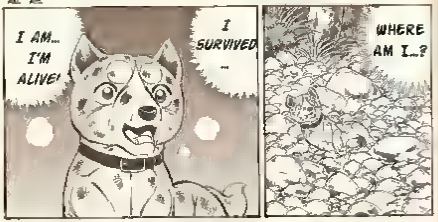
CHOSE TO END UP AS FISH BAIT!
STUPID KID!

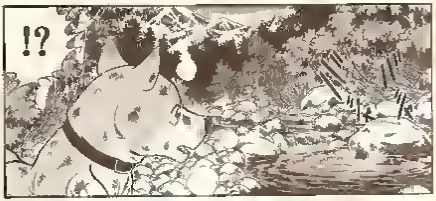

BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THE DANGERS OF THE WATER...
RIKI DIDN'T HAVE A CHOICE...


BUT THE MUDDY RIVER DRAGGED HIM TO THE DOOR OF HELL...
HE WAS STRUG-GLING TO SURVIVE...
RIKI WAS TOSSED AROUND BY THE WAVES LIKE A LEAF






I AM... I'M ALIVE!
I SURVIVED...
WHERE AM I...?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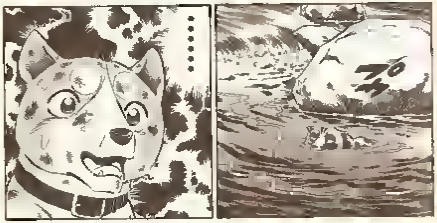
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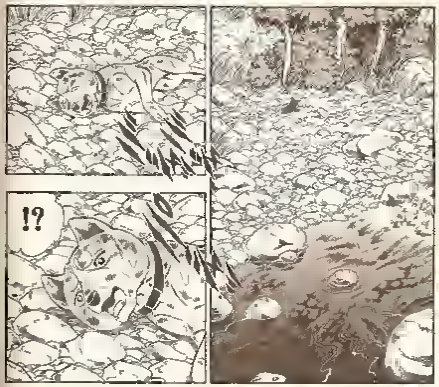
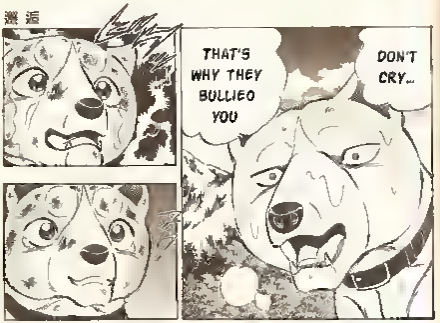
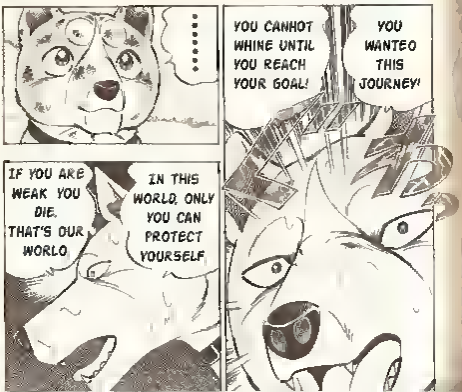
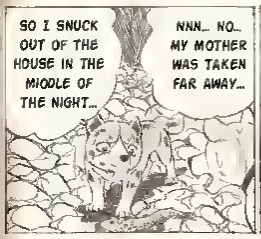

!?

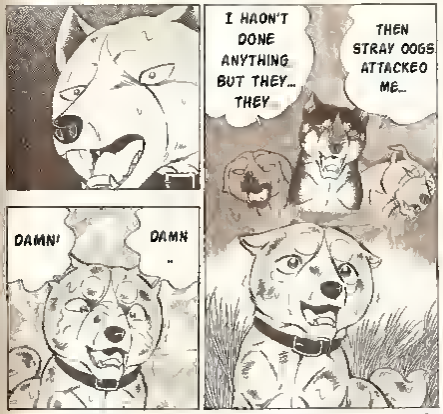
THE WATERS WERE ROUGH, AND I WAS CARRIED FURTHER DOWN THE RIVER.
WELL, I JUMPED IN TO HELP YOU, BUT...
YOU RESCUED ME?!
WHAT ...?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
I'M SORRY ...
I WAS GOING TO SEE MY MOTHER.
NO..
WERE YOU DUMPED?
IT'S ALRIGHT BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

WHO IS...?
YOU WERE IN DANGER...
AH, YOU'RE AWAKE..


THAT'S WHY THEY BULLIED YOU
DON'T CRY...


.....
YOU CANNOT WHINE UNTIL YOU REACH YOUR GOAL!
YOU WANTED THIS JOURNEY!
IF YOU ARE WEAK YOU DIE. THAT'S OUR WORLD.
IN THIS WORLD, ONLY YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF


SO I SNUCK OUT OF THE HOUSE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT...
NNN... NO... MY MOTHER WAS TAKEN FAR AWAY...
YOU STRAYED FROM YOUR MOTHER?!
YOUR MOTHER?

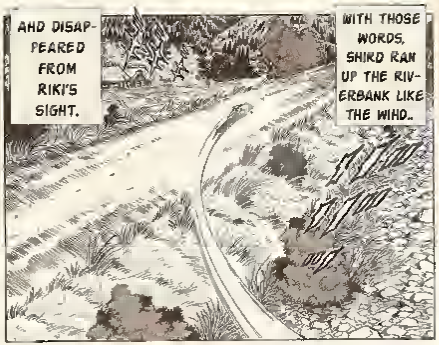

I HADN'T DONE ANYTHING BUT THEY... THEY...
THEN STRAY DOGS ATTACKED ME...
DAMN!
DAMN..

WHY DOES EVERYONE FIGHT? WHY CAN'T WE JUST GET ALONG?
I... I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT
YOU MUST TRAIN YOURSELF AND MAKE YOUR BODY LIKE STEEL, SO NO ONE CAN DEFEAT YOU
YOU HAVE TO BE BIGGER
JUSTICE WITHOUT POWER IS USELESS!
YOU'RE RIGHT KID BUT IN THIS WORLD...

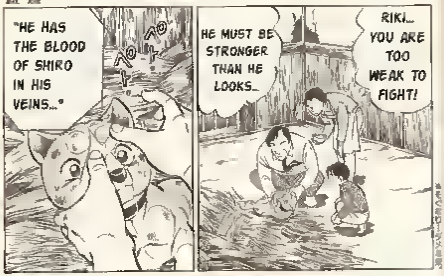
EAT THIS I WILL TAKE YOU HOME AFTER YOU'VE EATEN
AHYWAY THEY HURT YOU BADLY
I WON'T GO HOME YET!
NO! NOT UNTIL I HAVE SEEN MY MOTHER!
"YOU CANNOT SURVIVE ON GUTS ALONE."
"BUT DON'T MISUN-DER-STAND ME."
YOU ARE THE SAME KIND AS ME. YOU HAVE GUTS.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY THAT

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
WAIT, SIR!
PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE CALL ME THE BEAR-DOG SHIRO!
MY NAME IS SHIRO...

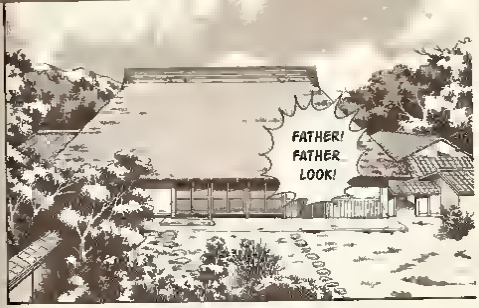
THEN, YOU CAN GO AND SEE YOUR MOTHER.
YOU MUST BE PATIENT AND MAKE YOUR BODY STRONGER.
DON'T MAKE YOUR MOTHER SAD.
YOU MIGHT DIE IF YOU RUSH INTO THIS JOURNEY.
WHO IS HE?
HE IS SAYING WHAT MY MOTHER SAID...
Y... YES.
GOODBYE, KID YOU ALRIGHT NOW?
THE SUN WILL RISE SOON I MUST RETURN HOME

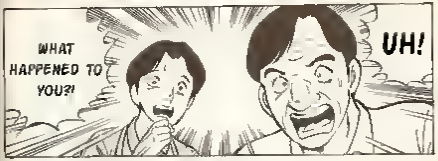

AND DISAP-
PEARED
FROM
RIKI'S
SIGHT.
WITH THOSE
WORDS,
SHIRO RAN
UP THE RIV-
ERBANK LIKE
THE WIND..
HE DIDN'T WANT
HIS FATHER TO
SEE HIM BEING
WEAK... TO SEE
HIM CRYING...
RIKI WANTED
TO SAY
"FATHER!"
BUT HE
DIDN'T...

THE
BEAR-DOG
SHIRO... MY
FATHER!
!!
Y... YES,
WELL...
AND YOUR
NAME,
KID?
GOOD
LUCK!
RIKI...
NICE
NAME..
WELL, I
AM..
IT'S
RIKI.

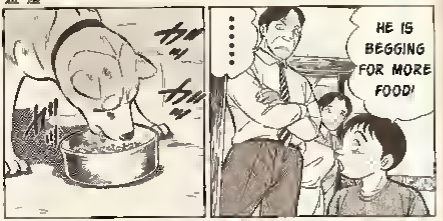

"HE HAS THE BLOOD OF SHIRO IN HIS VEINS..."
AO-AO
HE MUST BE STRONGER THAN HE LOOKS.
RIKI... YOU ARE TOO WEAK TO FIGHT!

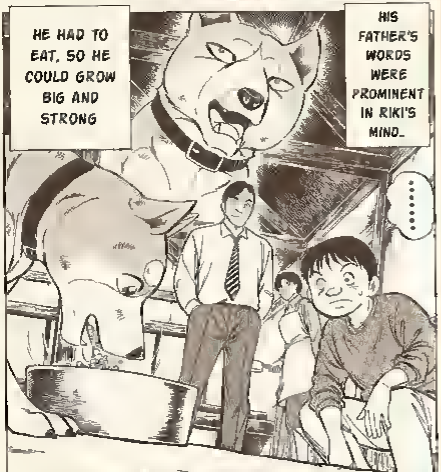
HE WAS NOW LIVING WITH A GOAL.
RIKI'S EYES WERE SHINING MORE THAN EVER...

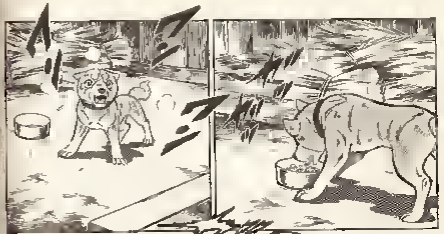

FATHER! FATHER LOOK!

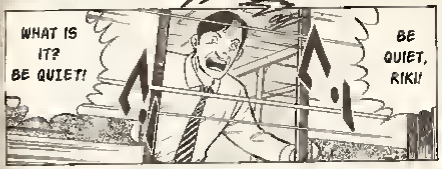

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
UH!

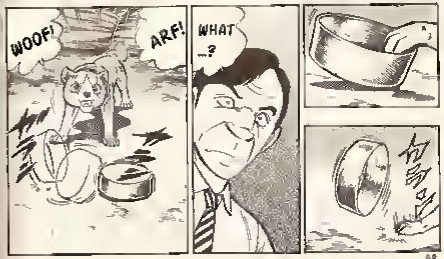
MOTHER, BRING HIM SOME MEDICINE
WHO DID YOU FIGHT WITH?! YOU'RE HURT BADLY...


HE IS BEGGING FOR MORE FOOD!

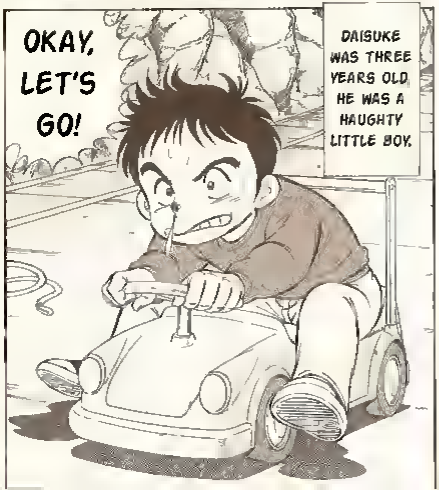

HE HAD TO EAT, SO HE COULD GROW BIG AND STRONG
HIS FATHER'S WORDS WERE PROMINENT IN RIKI'S MIND..

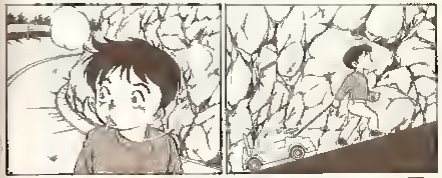


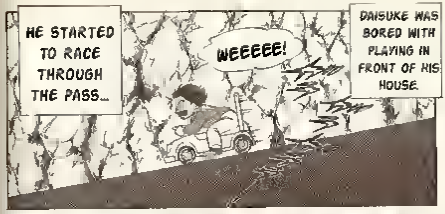

WHAT IS IT? BE QUIET!
BE QUIET, RIKI!

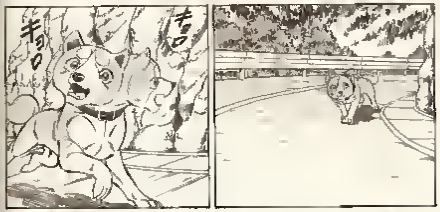

WOOF!
ARF!
WHAT —?

* NB! RYTHM FROM A JAPANESE POP SONG






HE STARTED TO RACE THROUGH THE PASS...
WEEEEE!
DAISUKE WAS BORED WITH PLAYING IN FRONT OF HIS HOUSE.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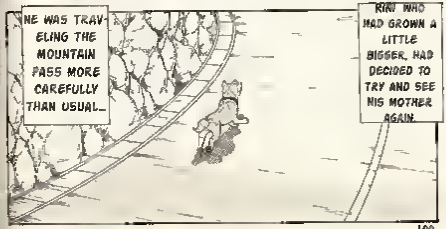
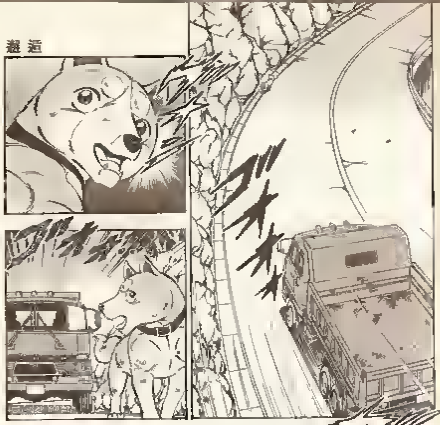

HE WAS TRAVELING THE MOUNTAIN PASS MORE CAREFULLY THAN USUAL...
RIKI WHO HAD GROWN A LITTLE BIGGER, HAD DECIDED TO TRY AND SEE HIS MOTHER AGAIN.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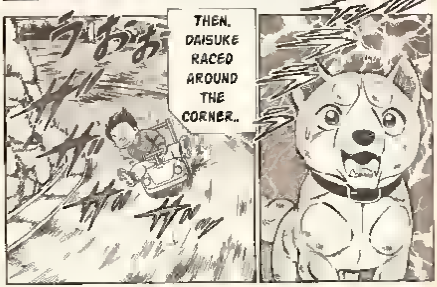
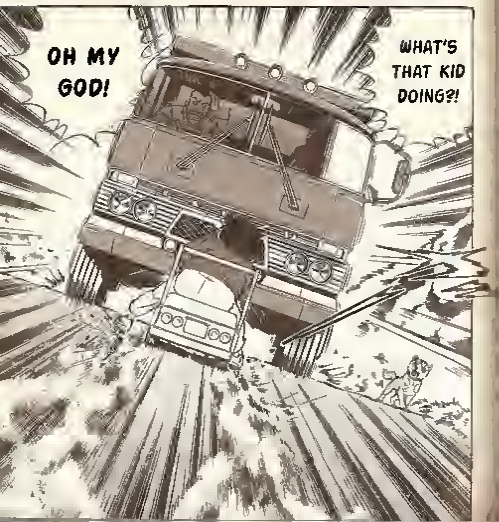
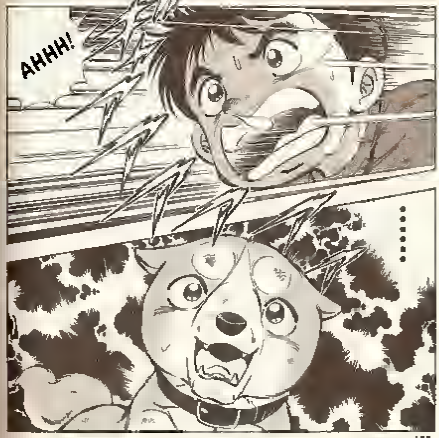
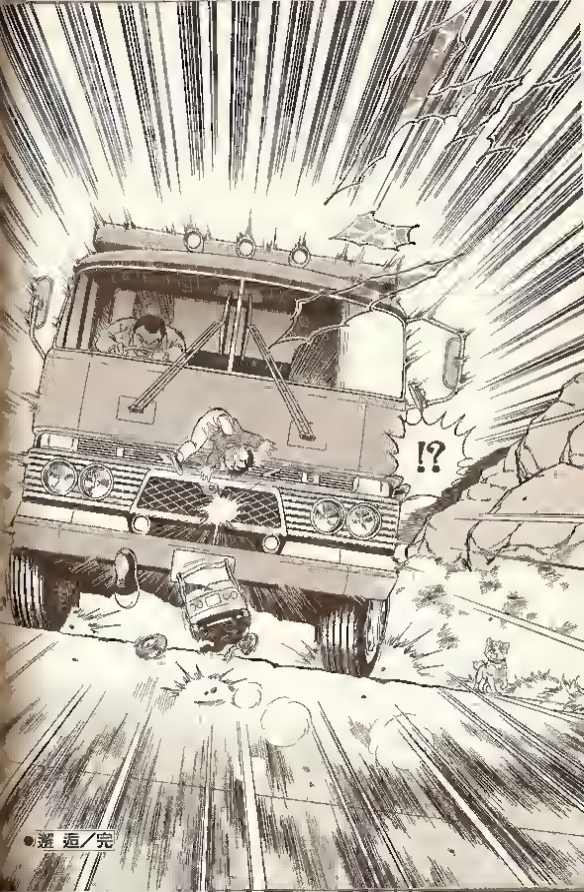

THEN, DAISUKE RACED AROUND THE CORNER..


OH MY GOD!
WHAT'S THAT KID DOING?!

WHAT?!


AHHH!



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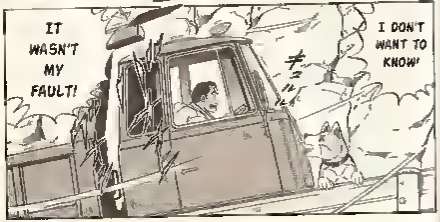
CHAPTER 4:
COURAGE

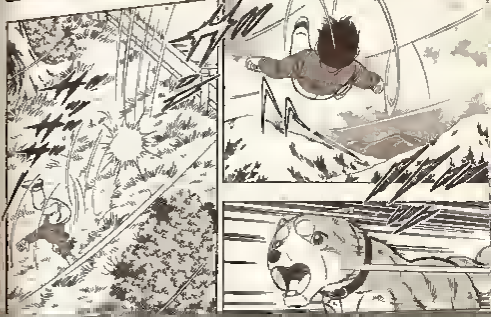
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
TOMOKO

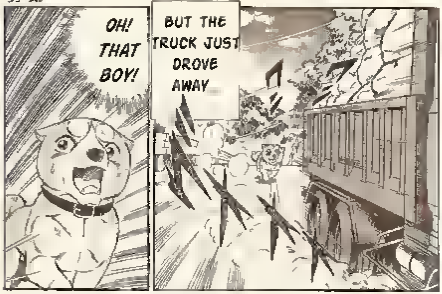
EDITING BY:
GINGA SCANLATION TEAM

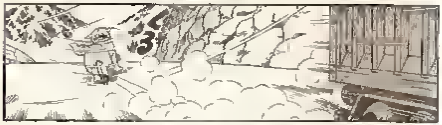
WOOF!
WOOF!
ARF!
ARF!

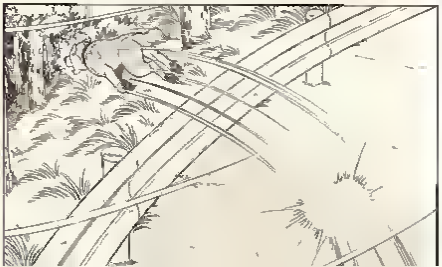
HE MUST BE DEAD...
I HIT HIM...
WHINE
WHINE

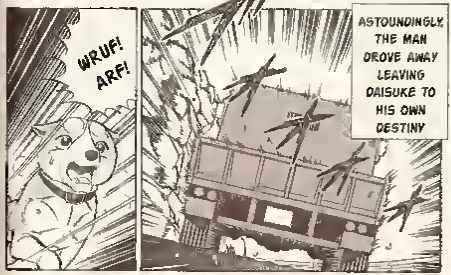

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!

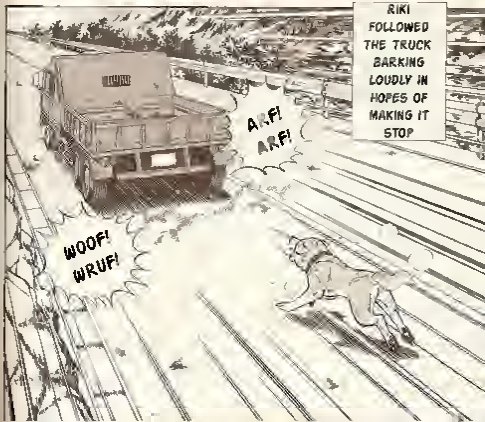



OH! THAT BOY!
BUT THE TRUCK JUST DROVE AWAY

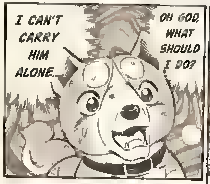


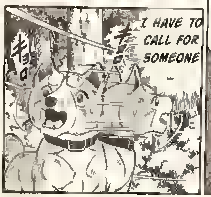



WRUF! ARF!
ASTOUNDINGLY, THE MAN DROVE AWAY LEAVING DAISUKE TO HIS OWN DESTINY

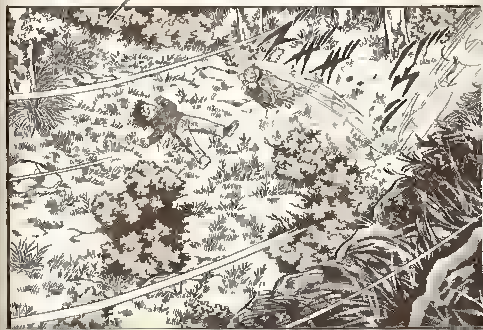

RIKI FOLLOWED THE TRUCK BARKING LOUDLY IN HOPES OF MAKING IT STOP
ARF! ARF!
WOOF! WRUF!

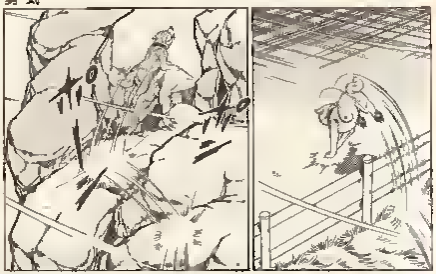
WAKE UP!
HEY... ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

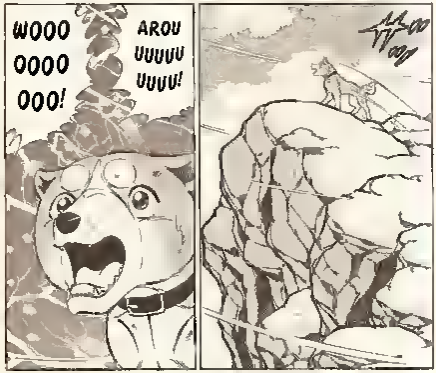

I CAN'T CARRY HIM ALONE...
OH GOD WHAT SHOULD I DO?


I HAVE TO CALL FOR SOMEONE

DAISUKE HAD PASSED OUT FROM THE FALL...

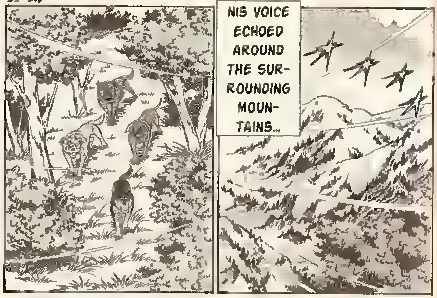





WOOO OOOO OOO!
AROU UUUUU UUUU!

SOMEONE WILL HEAR ME IF I HOWL FROM UP THERE!

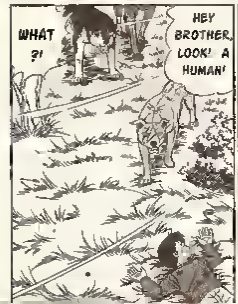
...HOPING THAT SOMEONE WOULD HEAR HIM AND COME TO HELP.
RIKI STOOD AT THE TOP OF THE HILL, HOWLING WITH ALL HIS MIGHT...

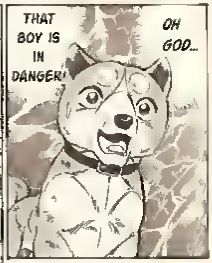

HIS VOICE ECHOED AROUND THE SURROUNDING MOUNTAINS..

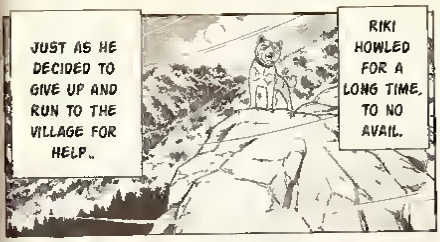
HEY, WHO'S HOWLING ?
AND IT REACHED SOMEONE WHO SHOULDN'T HAVE HEARD IT.

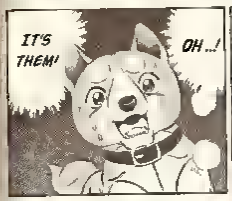
BUT NO SIGN YET. RIKI KEPT HOWLING
IF SOMEONE IN THE VILLAGE HEARD HIM THEY WOULD SURELY COME

THIS IS OUR AREA! GET DOWN HERE!
SO THE LITTLE WHELP CAME BACK!

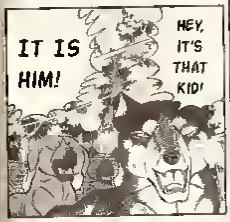

WHAT ?!
HEY BROTHER, LOOK! A HUMAN!


THAT BOY IS IN DANGER!
OH GOD...


JUST AS HE DECIDED TO GIVE UP AND RUN TO THE VILLAGE FOR HELP..
RIKI HOWLED FOR A LONG TIME, TO NO AVAIL.


IT'S THEM!
OH..!

H" H" H"


IT IS HIM!
HEY, IT'S THAT KID!

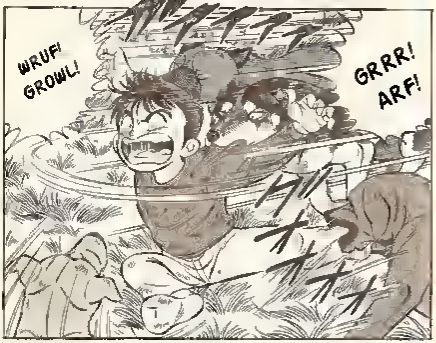
WHAT THE HELL? WHY IS HE HERE?
THE FOUR BROTHERS HAD FOUND DAISUKE.

AMAZINGLY, DAISUKE'S ENCOUNTER HAD LEFT ONLY BRUISES.
OH... OH...

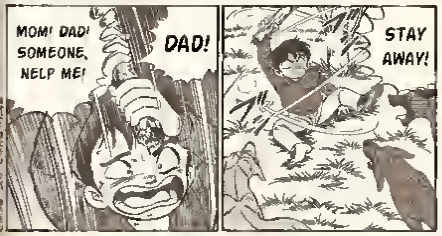
THEY HAD BEEN ABUSED BY HUMANS AND THEY WANTED REVENGE!
KILL HIM!
HOWEVER, HIS MOVEMENT ANGERED THE GROUP OF DOGS WHO HATED HUMANS...

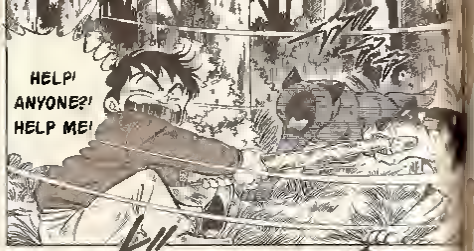
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ARGH!
OUCH!

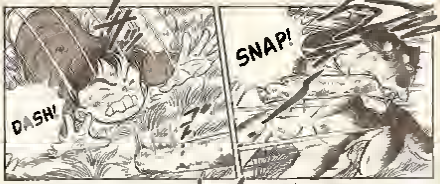
NO!

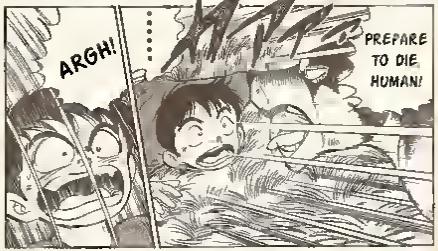

WRUF! GROWL!
GRRR! ARF!

IT'S ME YOU WANT TO KILL!
STOP! DON'T TOUCH HIM!

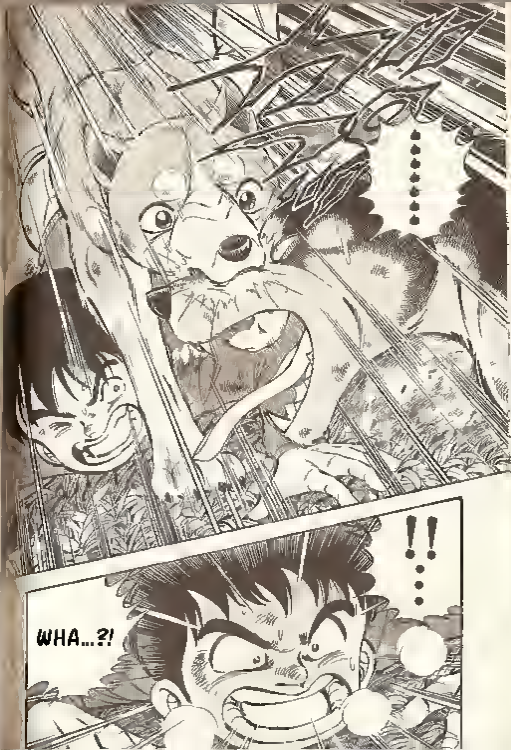

MOM! DAD! SOMEONE, HELP ME!
DAD!
STAY AWAY!

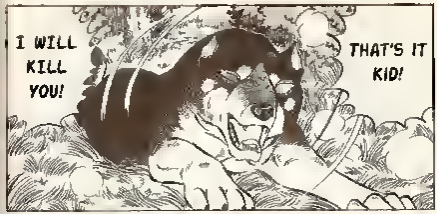

HELP! ANYONE?! HELP ME!

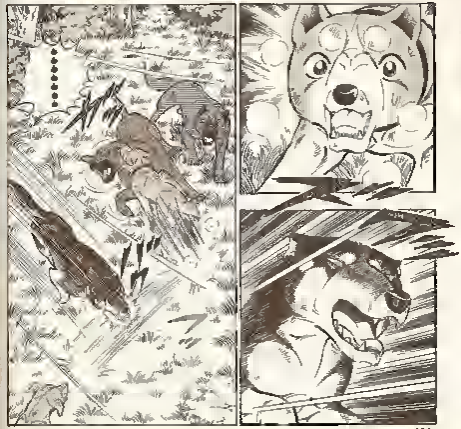

DASH!
SNAP!


ARGH!
PREPARE TO DIE, HUMAN!

SMASH!
RIKI JUMPED FEARLESSLY INTO THE FIGHT.
HE WOULD GIVE HIS OWN LIFE TO PROTECT DAISUKE.
HE CHOSE TO FIGHT, AND THIS TIME, HE COULDN'T ESCAPE!


WHA...?!


I WILL KILL YOU!
THAT'S IT KID!



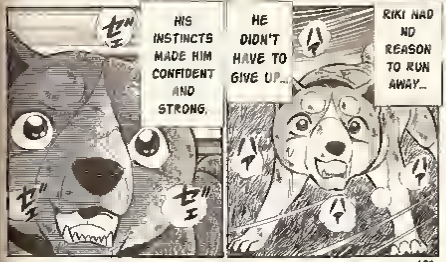
!!
STUPID KID.!
DAMN!

YOU MUTT!

BUT THE MOUNTAIN DOGS WOULD NOT TOLERATE WHAT RIKI HAD DONE TO THEM.
RIKI WAS NOT RUNNING AWAY FROM THEM.
AS HE PRO-TECTED DAISUKE...
AND HE WAS LEARNING WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A BEAR-DOG!
RIKI'S BEHAVIOR SERVED AS A LESSON TO THE ONLOOK-ERS..
HE WAS RISKING HIS LIFE TO DEFEND THE HELPLESS.

GUH!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE!
DAMN... SURROUND HIM!

WHEN RIKI WAS SEVERAL KILOMETERS AWAY FROM DAISUKE...
HE STOPPED AND FACED HIS ENEMIES.


RIKI HAD NO REASON TO RUN AWAY...
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GIVE UP...
HIS INSTINCTS MADE HIM CONFIDENT AND STRONG.
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ガエ
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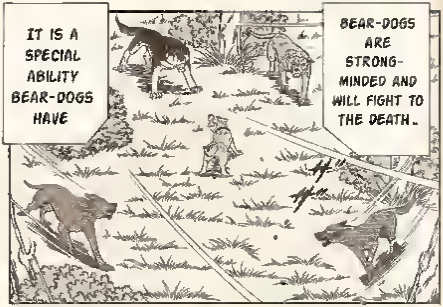
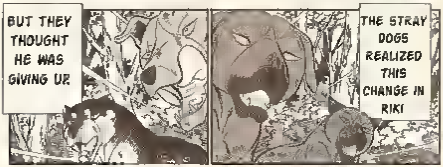

IT IS A SPECIAL ABILITY BEAR-DOGS HAVE
BEAR-DOGS ARE STRONG-MINDED AND WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH.

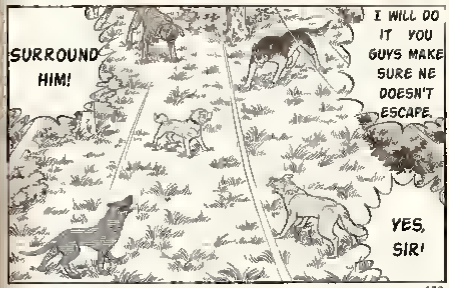

BUT THEY THOUGHT HE WAS GIVING UP.
THE STRAY DOGS REALIZED THIS CHANGE IN RIKI

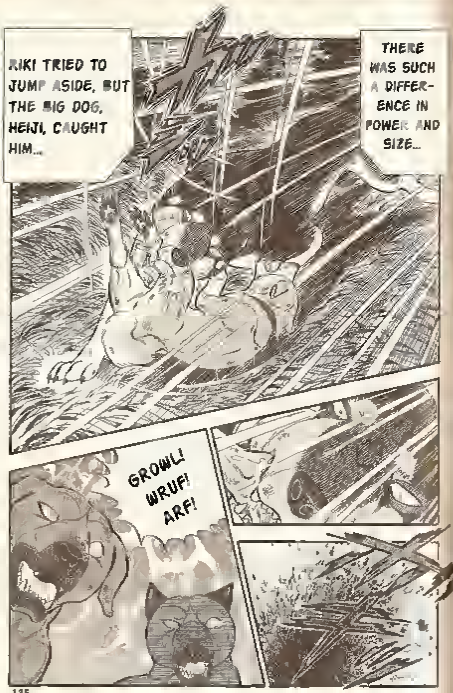
I AM NOT GOING TO LOSE TO THEM!
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE. I'M THE SON OF THE BEAR-DOG SHIRO!

YOU WILL REGRET THIS! YOU WILL GET WHAT YOU DESERVE!
KID..!

NO, I'M NOT GIVING UP! I WILL FIGHT!
GIVING UP, KID? SMART MOVE!

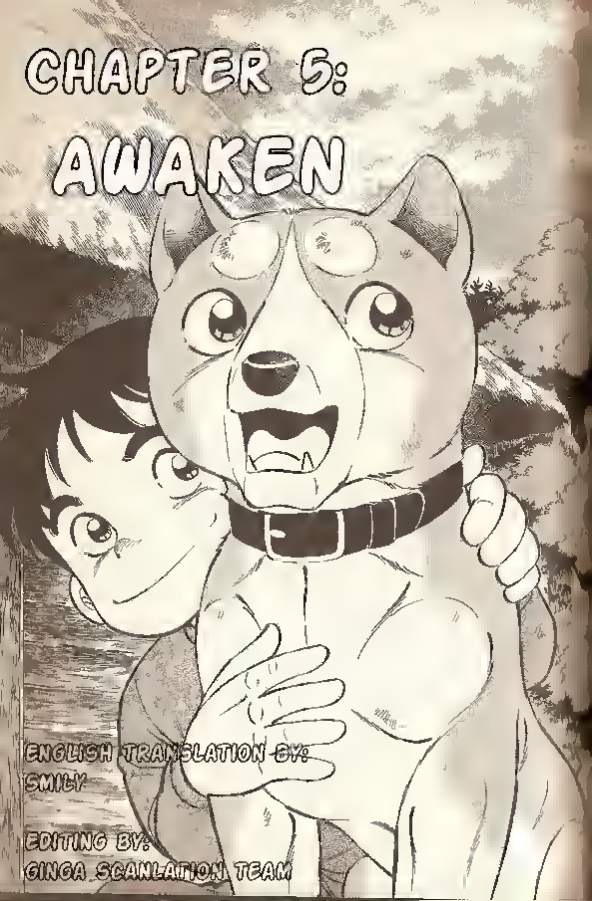
I HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS ANGRY!
YOU JUST SEALED YOUR FATE, KID

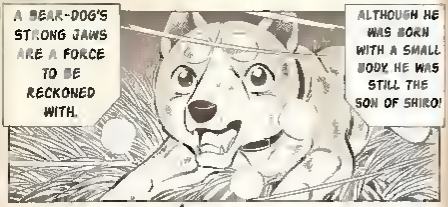

SURROUND HIM!
I WILL DO IT YOU GUYS MAKE SURE NE DOESN'T ESCAPE.
YES, SIR!


RIKI TRIED TO JUMP ASIDE, BUT THE BIG DOG, HEIJI, CAUGHT HIM...
THERE WAS SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN POWER AND SIZE...
GROWL! WRUF! ARF!

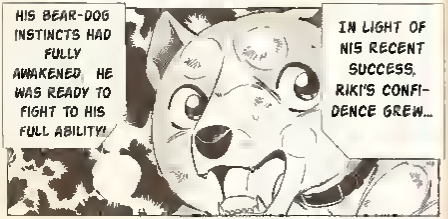
STUPID KID!

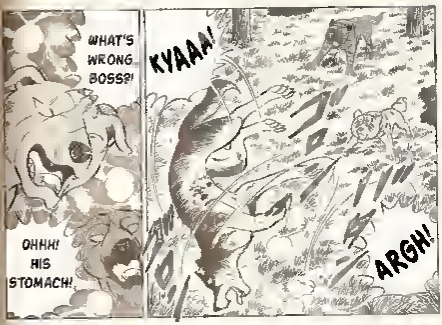
WHINE!
ARGH!
...WAS HEIJI, NOT RIKI.
HOWEVER, THE ONE WHO SCREAMED ...


CHAPTER 5:
AWAKEN
ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
SMILY
EDITING BY:
GINGA SCANLATION TEAM

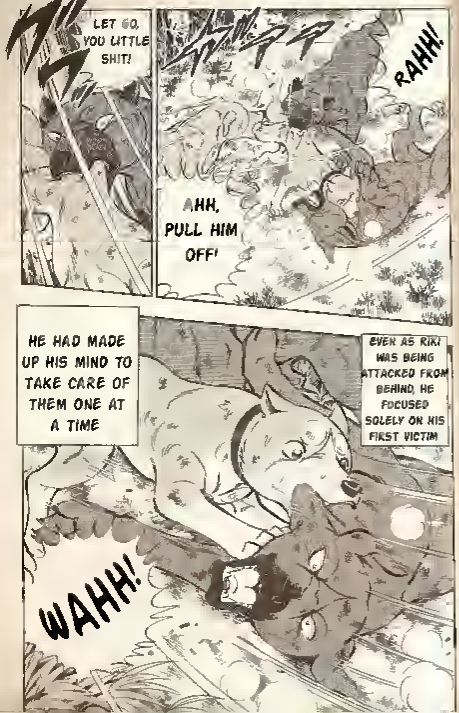

A BEAR-DOG'S STRONG JAWS ARE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH.
ALTHOUGH HE WAS BORN WITH A SMALL BODY, HE WAS STILL THE SON OF SHIRO!

PHEW, THAT WAS JUST A LUCKY SHOT!
DAMN! GET HIM!

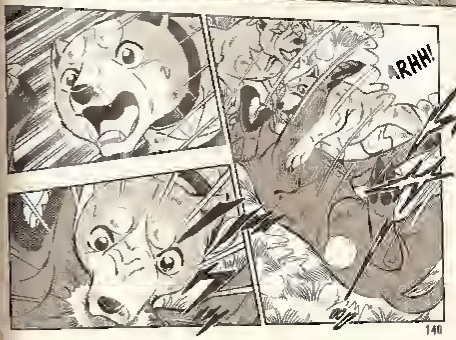

HIS BEAR-DOG INSTINCTS HAD FULLY AWAKENED, HE WAS READY TO FIGHT TO HIS FULL ABILITY!
IN LIGHT OF HIS RECENT SUCCESS, RIKI'S CONFIDENCE GREW...


WHAT'S WRONG, BOSS?!
OHHH! HIS STOMACH!
KYAAA!
ARGH!

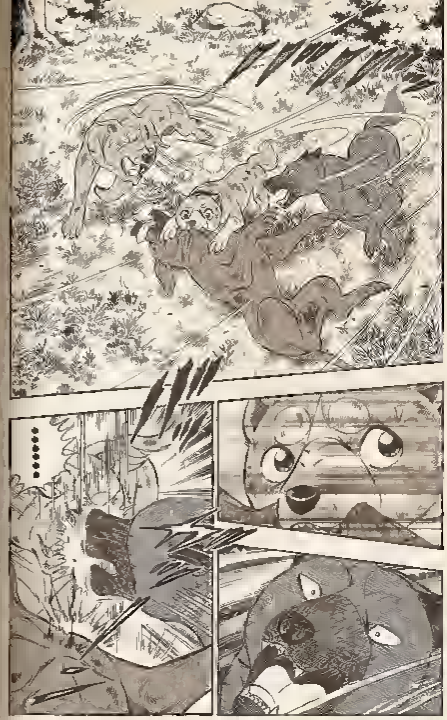
RIKI HAD PERFORMED AN ATTACK AND A COUNTERATTACK AT THE SAME TIME.
GRRRRR! THAT... THAT KID! GRRRRRR...
RIKI'S SINGLE BITE HAD BROKEN HEIJI'S RIB, LEAVING HIM UNABLE TO FIGHT...

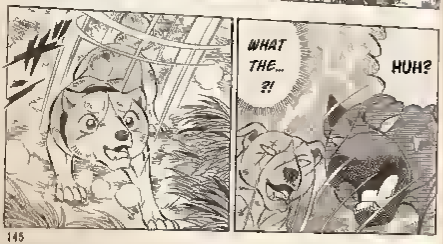

LET GO, YOU LITTLE SHIT!
RAHH!
AHH, PULL HIM OFF!
HE HAD MADE UP HIS MIND TO TAKE CARE OF THEM ONE AT A TIME
EVEN AS RIKI WAS BEING ATTACKED FROM BEHIND, HE FOCUSED SOLELY ON HIS FIRST VICTIM
WAHH!

RIKI LUNGED AT THE ONE HE SAW FIRST!
SINCE HIS ENEMIES ATTACKED FROM THREE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS...

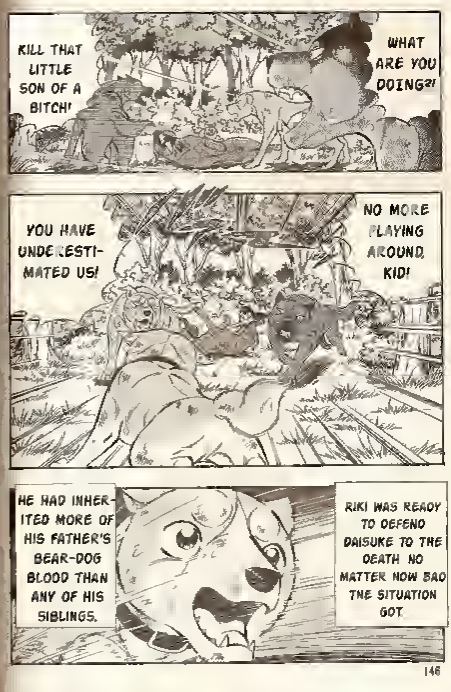

RRHH!

ARHH.. PANT PANT..
WAHH!
MONTA WILL DIE!
IDIOTS! IF YOU KEEP PULLING...
KY... KYAAA!
ERHH!
MONTA IS SUFFOCATING! QUICKLY!
BITE HIM ON THE HEAD!
YOU LITTLE RUNT! HOW DARE YOU?!
WAHHH!
ARGH! KYAAA!
WAAAH! PLEASE STOP! OON'T PULL!

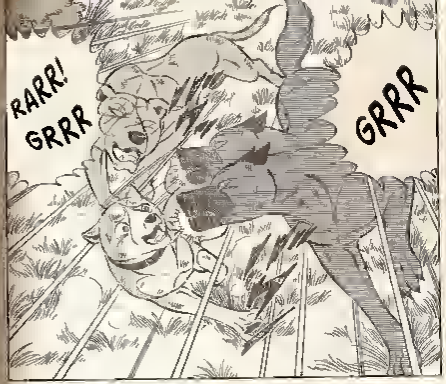


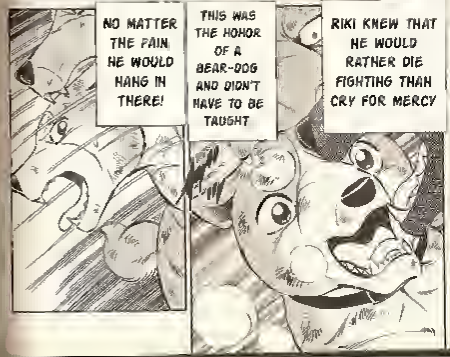

WHAT THE...?!
HUH?

BUT ...
WITH THREE FULL-GROWN DOGS ATTACKING HIM AT ONCE RIKI WAS AT A DISADVANTAGE.
BUT HE WOULD NOT GIVE UP.


KILL THAT LITTLE SON OF A BITCH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
YOU HAVE UNDERESTIMATED US!
NO MORE PLAYING AROUND, KID!
HE HAD INHERITED MORE OF HIS FATHER'S BEAR-DOG BLOOD THAN ANY OF HIS SIBLINGS.
RIKI WAS READY TO DEFEND DAISUKE TO THE DEATH NO MATTER HOW BAD THE SITUATION GOT.

IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT RIKI WAS READY TO LIVE UP TO THE PRIDE OF BEING A BEAR-DOG!
I WILL RIP YOUR INTESTINES FROM YOUR BODY!
IT'S POINTLESS KID..
YAH!
WAH!
ARK!

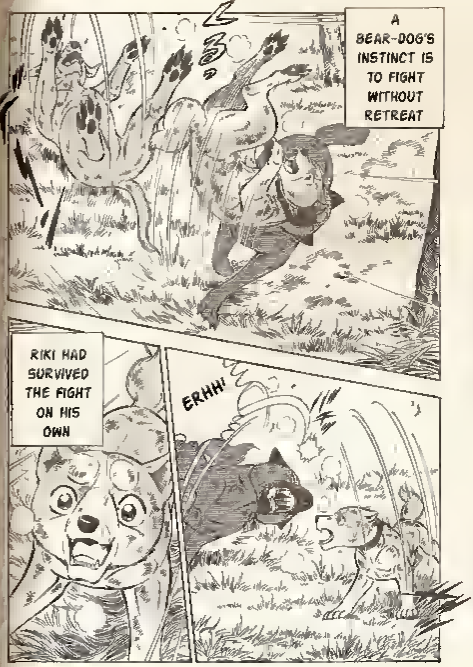

RARR! GRRR
GRRR

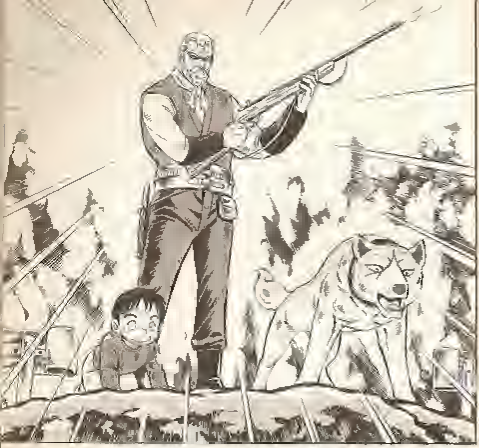

NO MATTER THE PAIN HE WOULD HANG IN THERE!
THIS WAS THE HONOR OF A BEAR-DOG AND DIDN'T HAVE TO BE TAUGHT
RIKI KNEW THAT HE WOULD RATHER DIE FIGHTING THAN CRY FOR MERCY

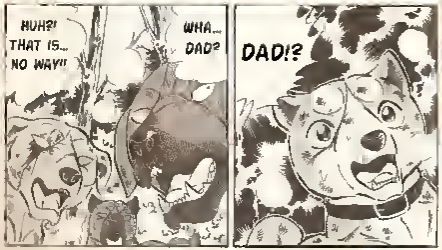
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
WAHH!
OUCH!
OUCH!
KYAA AA!
ARGH!

YAHHH!
RIP OUT HIS STOMACH! HAHA!
TEAR HIM APART!
CRY! GO ON SHOUT! BEG FOR YOUR LIFE AND WE WILL KILL YOU PAINLESSLY!
PANT PANT
I WILL NOT LOSE TO THEM!
I AM THE SON OF SHIRO THE BEAR-DOG!

WHAT SHALL WE DO?
WHO IS HE?!
WHAT THAT KID..!
EHH?!
!!


A BEAR-DOG'S INSTINCT IS TO FIGHT WITHOUT RETREAT
RIKI HAD SURVIVED THE FIGHT ON HIS OWN
ERHH!

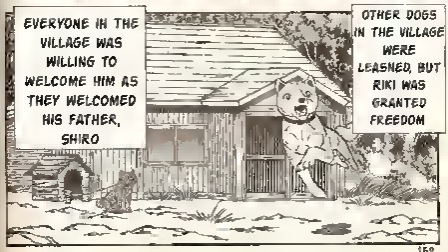


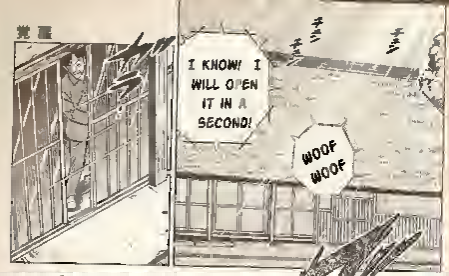

HUH?! THAT IS... NO WAY!!
WHA... DAD?
DAD!?

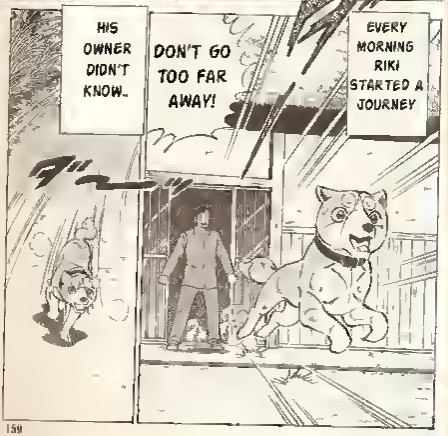
WHEN HE REALIZED IT WAS SHIRO'S SON THAT HAD FOUGHT SO BRAVELY, HE INSPECTED THE DOG CALMLY.
TAKEDA GOHEI HAD BEEN PASSING THROUGH THE AREA.
GRANDPA, THAT'S THE DOG THAT SAVED ME FROM THE WILD ONES!
IT WORKED! THEY RAN OFF!
YOU ARE MY SON AREN'T YOU?
YOU DID WELL, RIKI!
HE MIGHT EVEN HAVE MORE BEAR-DOG BLOOD THAN HIS SIBLINGS!
I OVER-LOOKED HIM... I DIDN'T THINK HE COULD FIGHT SO WELL...
YES.!
DAD..
SANKI SUGIURA

AND SHIRO WAS READY TO ATTACK AT ANY TIME.
GOHEI AND SHIRO HAD ARRIVED...
NO WONDER HE'S SO STRONG! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
THAT FREAK IS SHIRO'S SON!?
DON'T LEAVE ME BEHIND!
WAIT! YOU IDIOTS!

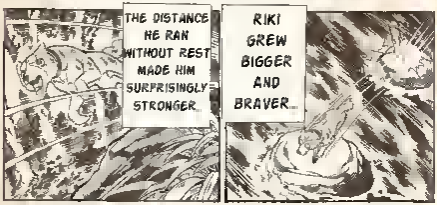
DAISUKE SAW RIKI AS A SAVIOR AND CLOSE FRIEND
THAT DAY, RIKI'S STORY SPREAD THROUGH-OUT THE VILLAGE.


EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE WAS WILLING TO WELCOME HIM AS THEY WELCOMED HIS FATHER, SHIRO
OTHER DOGS IN THE VILLAGE WERE LEASHED, BUT RIKI WAS GRANTED FREEDOM


覚醒
I KNOW! I WILL OPEN IT IN A SECOND!
WOOF WOOF


HIS OWNER DIDN'T KNOW..
DON'T GO TOO FAR AWAY!
EVERY MORNING RIKI STARTED A JOURNEY

NOTHING MADE HIM HAPPIER THAN TO BE WITH HIS MOTHER. AFTER ALL HE WAS A MOMMA'S BOY.
RIKI TRAVELED 100 KILOMETERS EVERY DAY, AND NEVER TIRED OF IT.


THE DISTANCE HE RAN WITHOUT REST MADE HIM SURPRISINGLY STRONGER.
RIKI GREW BIGGER AND BRAVER...

GROWING UP IN NATURE MADE HIM STRONGER THAN HE COULD IMAGINE.
EVEN IF IT WAS RAINING WITH THUNDER AND STRONG WINDS...

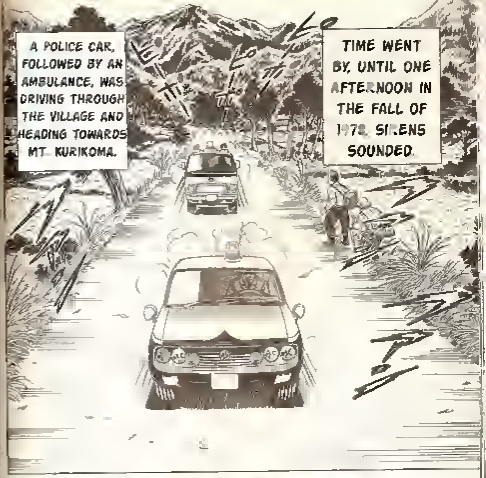
HE RAN 100 KILOMETERS EVERY MORNING, BUT NO ONE KNEW WHERE TO...
NO ONE KNEW THAT HE WAS OFF TO SEE HIS MOTHER...

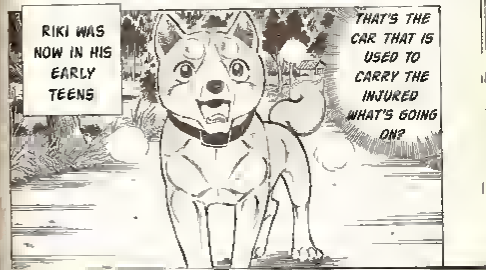
LET HIM GO... HE IS SHIRO'S SON.
DAMN... THAT KID AGAIN!

SOMEDAY I WILL MAKE HIM PAY!
THAT KID GAVE ME WOUNDS THAT WILL NEVER HEAL!

.....

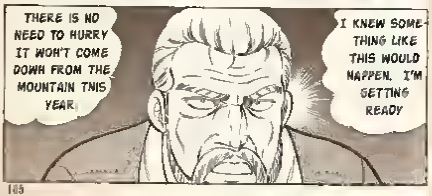
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
OH.! HELICOPTERS?!

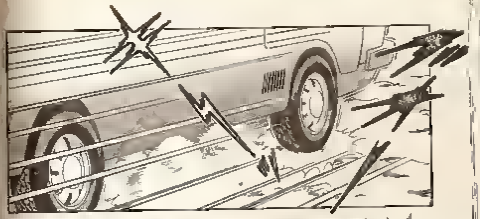

A POLICE CAR, FOLLOWED BY AN AMBULANCE, WAS DRIVING THROUGH THE VILLAGE AND HEADING TOWARDS MT. KURIKOMA.
TIME WENT BY, UNTIL ONE AFTERNOON IN THE FALL OF 1978. SIRENS SOUNDED.


RIKI WAS NOW IN HIS EARLY TEENS
THAT'S THE CAR THAT IS USED TO CARRY THE INJURED WHAT'S GOING ON?

GOHEI!
THE RED-BACKED BEAR!
WE'VE GOT A HUGE PROBLEM

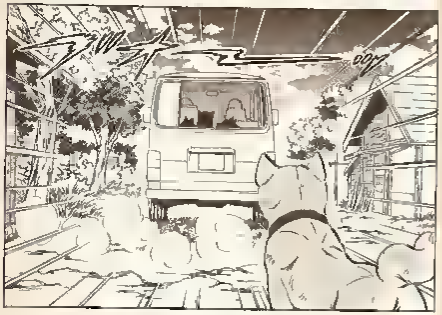
TWO WERE KILLED AND ONE IS BADLY WOUNDED!
THREE RANGERS WERE ATTACKED BY THE RED-BACKED BEAR!

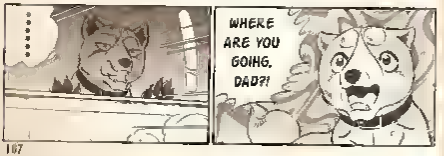

THERE IS NO NEED TO HURRY IT WON'T COME DOWN FROM THE MOUNTAIN THIS YEAR.
I KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN. I'M GETTING READY

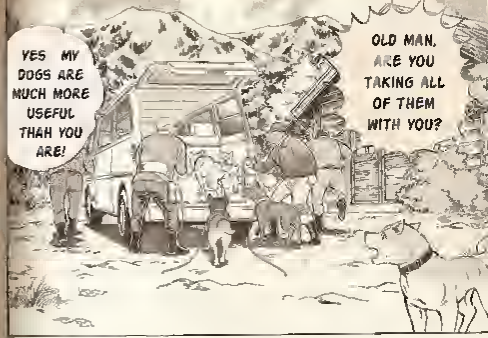


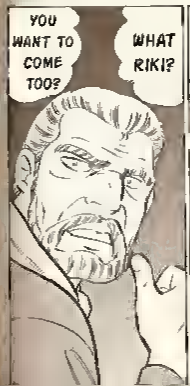
GOHEI! TAKEDA GOHEI SIR! ARE YOU THERE?!
WOOF
GRR
VAF

YOU'RE SAYING IT'S TOO EARLY FOR RIKI TO COME WITH US, AREN'T YOU?
HAHA, THERE IS NO NEED TO BE ANGRY SHIRO!
GRR!


OOF!

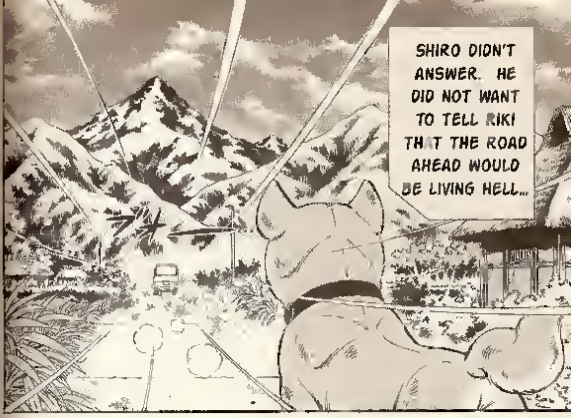

.....
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DAD?!

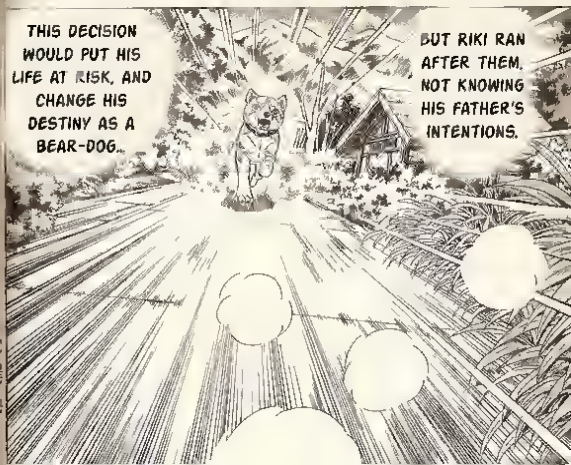

YES MY DOGS ARE MUCH MORE USEFUL THAN YOU ARE!
OLD MAN, ARE YOU TAKING ALL OF THEM WITH YOU?


YOU WANT TO COME TOO?
WHAT RIKI?

EHH?

WOOF! VAF! VAF!


SHIRO DIDN'T ANSWER. HE DID NOT WANT TO TELL RIKI THAT THE ROAD AHEAD WOULD BE LIVING HELL...


THIS DECISION WOULD PUT HIS LIFE AT RISK, AND CHANGE HIS DESTINY AS A BEAR-DOG...
BUT RIKI RAN AFTER THEM, NOT KNOWING HIS FATHER'S INTENTIONS.

CHAPTER 6: FAITH

MT. KURIKOMA, THE SITE OF THE ATTACK, HAD JUST SEEN ITS FIRST SNOWFALL OF THE YEAR.

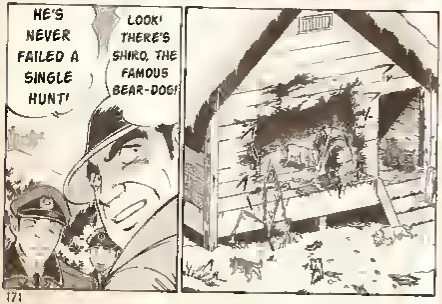
THE WORK OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF. THIS ATTACK WAS TOO VIOLENT TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF A WHITE-CHEST BEAR...!
WHAT A PITY THIS PLACE'S PEACE HAS BEEN DISTURBED..

ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY:
SMILY

EDITING BY:
GINGA [illegible] TEAM

BESIDES, IF WE WAIT TOO LONG THE SUN WILL SET
WE DON'T NEED ANY HIGH-RANKING OFFICIALS. ANY IDIOT CAN TELL THIS IS A BEAR ATTACK

IF IT GETS DARK IT WILL BE HARDER TO HANDLE!
HMM ...
BUT ...


HE'S NEVER FAILED A SINGLE HUNT!
LOOK! THERE'S SHIRO, THE FAMOUS BEAR-DOG!

YEP!
THOSE MUST BE HIS BEAR DOGS!
OH THERE IS MR. TAKEDA!

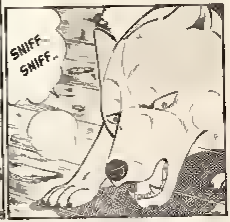
WAIT! THE HIGH OFFICERS HAVEN'T ARRIVED YET...!
SHIRO, COME HERE. REMEMBER THIS SCENT...

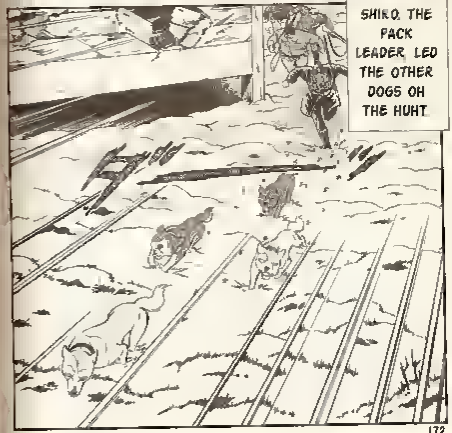
IT'S HOW OR NEVER!
IS... IS THIS FOR REAL?

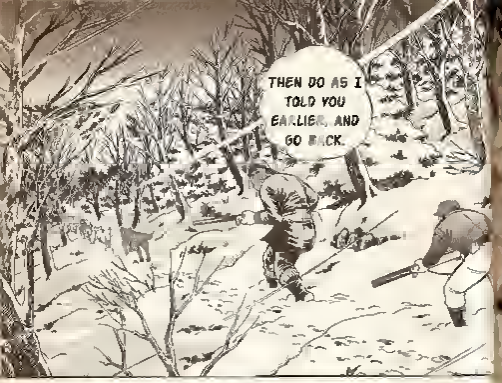
UH... WHY?!
YOU LOT! IT'S BETTER IF YOU ALL GO BACK

THERE ARE TOO MAHY PLACES FOR AKAKABUTO TO AMBUSH US!
YOU WOH T BE ABLE TO SEE AHYTHING
THERE WILL BE MORE TREES AS WE GO FURTHER UP THE MOUNTAIN...

GOT THE SCENT? GOOD! LET'S GO!


SNIFF.. SNIFF..

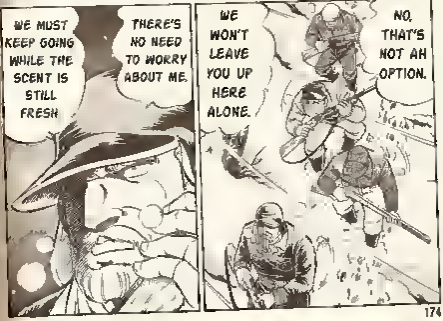

SHIKO, THE PACK LEADER, LED THE OTHER DOGS ON THE HUNT.


THEN DO AS I TOLD YOU EARLIER, AND GO BACK.

OLD MAN, LET'S CALL IT A DAY! IT'S STARTING TO GET DARK...
EVEN THE DOGS ARE SLOWING DOWN...

WHEN IT GETS DARK, WE MAY AS WELL BE BEAR BAIT!
WHY OLD MAN? YOU SAID THAT WE SHOULDN'T OVERDO IT.

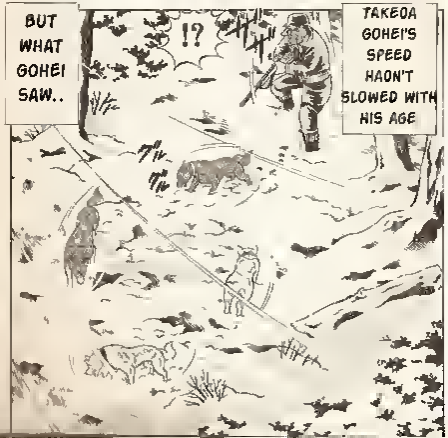
WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...?
OLD MAN ....
EVEN IN THE DARK, IT'LL BE FINE.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. I'VE GOT SHIRO.


WE MUST KEEP GOING WHILE THE SCENT IS STILL FRESH
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ME.
WE WON'T LEAVE YOU UP HERE ALONE.
NO, THAT'S NOT AN OPTION.

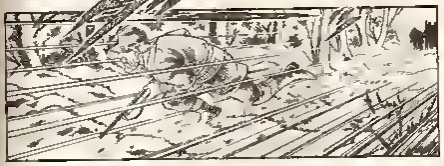
THE START OF THE FOOT PRINTS WILL DO!
SHIRO, DON'T GO TOO FAR!
QUICK, FOLLOW THEM!
THE DOGS ARE HEADING THAT WAY!
THE WINDS FROM BELOW BLEW UPWARD, MAKING THE DOGS LOSE THE SCENT
IT WAS THEN THAT THEIR LUCK RAN OUT...

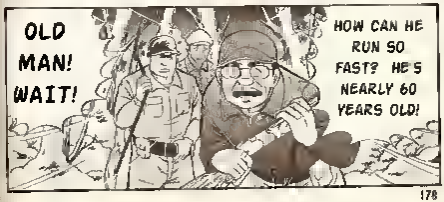
IT'S ALMOST DUSK... PROMISE US THAT WE'LL HEAD BACK WHEN IT GETS DARK...!
WE CAME ALL THIS WAY. WE WON'T LEAVE YOU NOW!
Still fresh
Ah found it!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE!
SNIFF
SNIFF

THE SPEED AND ENDURANCE OF THE HUMAN MASTER DETERMINES HOW LONG A BEAR-DOG WILL LIVE!
THE FURTHER THE PRINTS GO, THE MORE DANGER THE DOGS ARE IN.

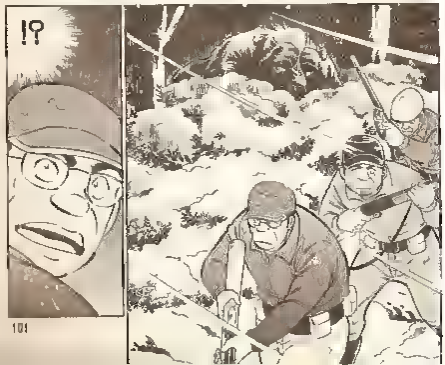

BUT WHAT GOHEI SAW..
!?
TAKEOA GOHEI'S SPEED HAON'T SLOWED WITH HIS AGE

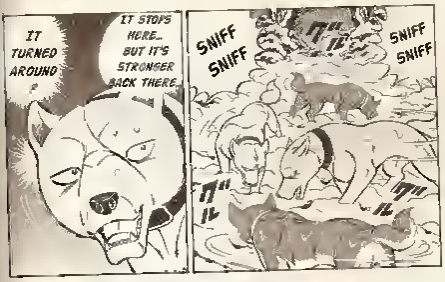
READY YOUR RIFLES AND PREPARE TO FIRE!
EVERYONE, GET READY!
OH...!

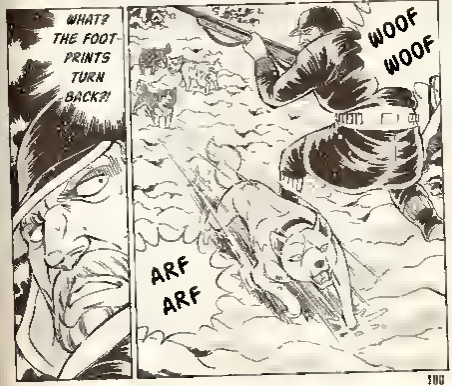



OLD MAN! WAIT!
HOW CAN HE RUN SO FAST? HE'S NEARLY 60 YEARS OLD!

OLD MAN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! FOLLOW THE DOGS' BARKS!
WOOF! WOOF! ARF!
WRUF! WOOF! VAF!


!?


IT TURNED AROUND
IT STOPS HERE... BUT IT'S STRONGER BACK THERE
SNIFF SNIFF
SNIFF SNIFF

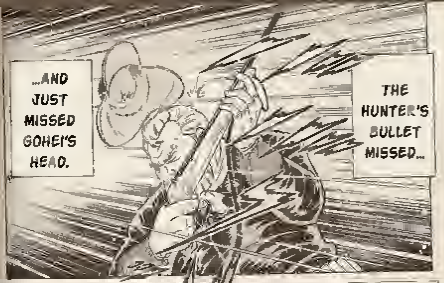

WHAT? THE FOOT PRINTS TURN BACK?!
WOOF WOOF
ARF ARF

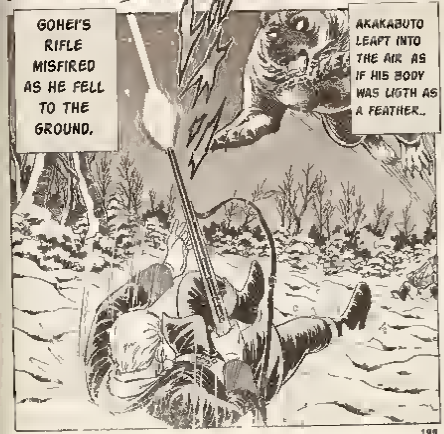
IT'S AKAKA-BUTO!
ROAR
!!
AKAKA-BUTO!

WHA... WHAT?!
EHH?!

SHIRO, OUT OF THE WAY!
YOU MONSTER!

JUST AS HE RELOADED AND GOT BACK TO HIS FEET...
...RIGHT ACROSS GOHEI'S FACE!
AKAKABUTO LET OUT A ROAR AND BROUGHT HIS RIGHT PAW DOWN...


...AND JUST MISSED GOHEI'S HEAD.
THE HUNTER'S BULLET MISSED...


GOHEI'S RIFLE MISFIRED AS HE FELL TO THE GROUND.
AKAKABUTO LEAPT INTO THE AIR AS IF HIS BODY WAS LIGTH AS A FEATHER...

SHIRO GAVE HIS CALL!
YOU..?!
RIKI!
THEY FOUGHT AKAKABUTO FOR ALL THEY WERE WORTH!
THE OTHER DOGS WERE INSPIRED BY RIKI'S COURAGE

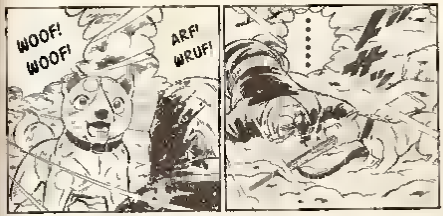
BUT JUST THEN, SOMETHING RED STREAKED PAST HIM WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHTING...
AT THAT MOMENT, SHIRO LEAPT INTO ACTION!
IT WAS RIKI! HE LEAPT UP AND BIT AKAKABUTO'S FACE WITHOUT HESITATION!

WHERE DID I DROP MY RIFLE?!
GOHEI WAS STRUGGLING TO FIND SOME-THING...
RIKI NOTICED GOHEI'S MOVEMENT

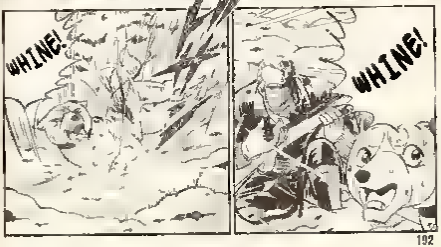
WHINE!
ONE BY ONE, SHIRO'S PACKMATES WERE STRUCK BY AKAKA-BUTO...
BUT NOT A SINGLE ONE BACKED DOWN THEY ALL HAD THE SAME GOAL AND WOULD FIGHT TO THE DEATH TO ACCOMPLISH IT!

AND WAS MAKING ANOTHER ATTACK!
AKAKA-BUTO HAD STRUCK SHIRO'S STOMACH

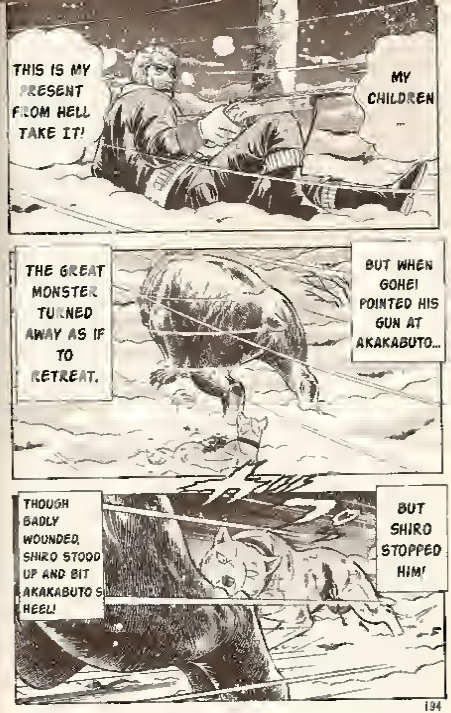
HOW DARE YOU?!
AKAKABUTO!

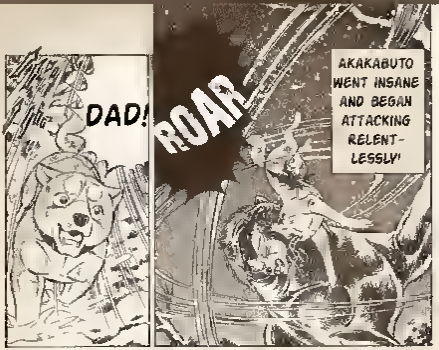

WOOF! WOOF!
ARF! WRUF!

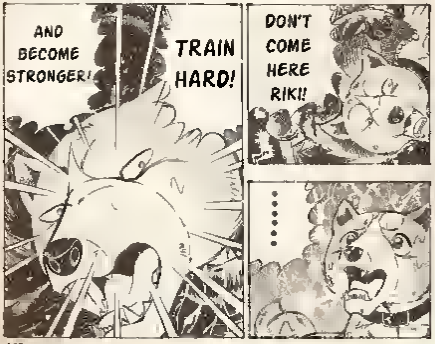
GOOD NOW, GET DOWN! I WILL DEAL WITH THIS!
RIK!! THANK YOU!

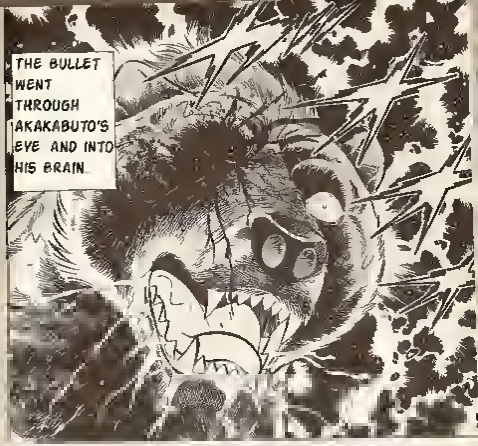

WHINE!
WHINE!

GOHEI TOOK THE OPPOR-TUNITY!
AND WHEN AKAKA-BUTO TURNED AROUND...
RIKI HEARD THE SCREAMS OF BOTH GOHEI AND HIS FATHER SHIRO!
AT THAT MOMENT...

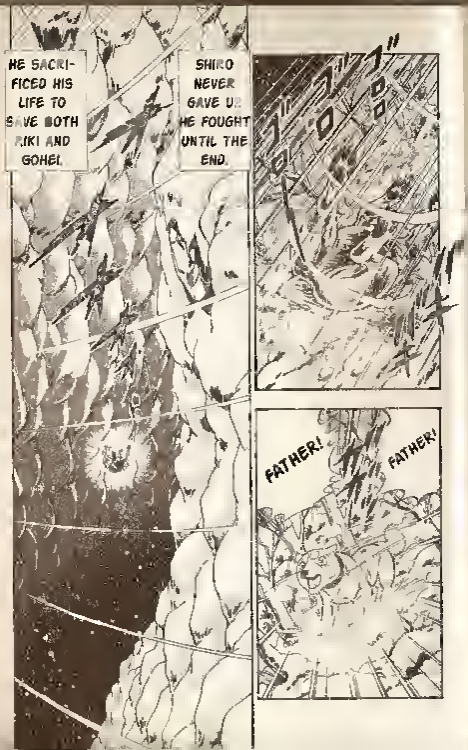

THIS IS MY PRESENT FROM HELL TAKE IT!
MY CHILDREN...
THE GREAT MONSTER TURNED AWAY AS IF TO RETREAT.
BUT WHEN GOHEI POINTED HIS GUN AT AKAKABUTO...
THOUGH BADLY WOUNDED, SHIRO STOOD UP AND BIT AKAKABUTO'S HEEL!
BUT SHIRO STOPPED HIM!


DAD!
ROAR
AKAKABUTO WENT INSANE AND BEGAN ATTACKING RELENTLESSLY!

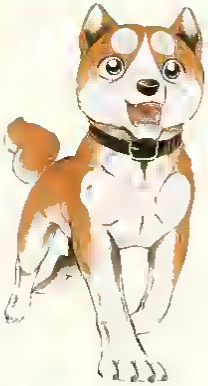

AND BECOME STRONGER!
TRAIN HARD!
DON'T COME HERE RIKI!
.....


THE BULLET WENT THROUGH AKAKABUTO'S EYE AND INTO HIS BRAIN.

GOHEI FAINTED AFTER FIRING THE SHOT.


HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO SAVE BOTH RIKI AND GOHEI.
SHIRO NEVER GAVE UP. HE FOUGHT UNTIL THE END.
FATHER!
FATHER!

YOU ARE THE ONE I AM PROUD OF NOW!
LOOK.. LOOK AFTER THE MASTER FOR ME RIKI!
A BEAR-DOG NEVER GIVES UP!
I.. I'M NOT GIVING UP!
DON'T GIVE UP!!
NO! FATHER!
.....
.....



ENGLISH [illegible] BY:
WWW.JAPANINFO.DK, TOMOKO AND SMILY

EDITING BY:
GINGA [illegible]

RIKI WOULD GO ON TO GATHER COMRADES FROM ALL OVER JAPAN. WITH EXTRAORDINARY FIGHTING SKILLS, A STRONG WILL AND A KIND HEART, RIKI WOULD LEAD OU'S LARGEST ARMY. ONLY THROUGH AKAKABUTO'S DEFEAT WOULD PEACE FINALLY RETURN TO OU.

GOHEI HAD LOST HIS GREATEST FRIEND AND RIKI HIS FATHER TO AKAKABUTO. HOWEVER, THE BATTLE BETWEEN RIKI AND AKAKABUTO HAD ONLY JUST BEGUN.

■銀牙伝説リキ／完